MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MAY 1981

Lebanese Crisis

Military Situation--Damascus radio, citing a Syrian military spokesman, reported that Syrian air defenses intercepted an Israeli reconnaissance plane that had violated Syrian airspace on 26 May, downing it inside Syria near Madaya in the Az-Zabdani area. Jerusalem radio stated that an Israeli drone was downed by SAM missiles fired from within Syria, saying it had been on a patrol mission in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region. Syrian military sources cited by Damascus radio also claimed that Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) in Lebanon shot down two Israeli reconnaissance planes on 22 May. Jerusalem radio said the IDF admitted that one drone was downed by SAM missiles fired from inside Syria on that day. Commenting on the use of the missiles, IDF radio said on 25 May that the Syrians have now downed 3 drones over the Al-Biqa' valley in less than 2 weeks from batteries inside Syria but that they have fired at least 17 SAM missiles and have not forced the Israeli Air Force to discontinue its patrol flights in the region. Although Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 23 May that the Syrians have installed new missile bases in the Al-Biqa' region, monitored Israeli sources have not mentioned this.

According to reports by the Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Voice of Palestine radios, ADF and Phalangist forces engaged in violent clashes in Beirut early on 23 May. Beirut radio said the capital was calm on 24 and 25 May although rocket fire damaged the embassies of the United States, Egypt and Sudan. The radio also reported renewed clashes in Zahlah on 25 May. The previous day, the Voice of Lebanon said Syrian reinforcements were moving into the Al-Biqa' region. AFP, citing an official Lebanese source, reported that Syria has proposed a formula to allow normal life to resume in the Zahlah and Mt. Sannin areas. Shelling continued in southern Lebanon on 24 May, according to Beirut radio. The Voice of Palestine radio reported that Israeli engineers have infiltrated into the gap between UN forces in the Golan region and UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon and have begun work to open a road linking the Golan Heights with the eastern sector of southern Lebanon.

Begin Remarks--Speaking on 24 May, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin alleged that Soviet advisers are attached to Syrian units stationed in Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. TASS commentator Georgiy Kuvaldin on 25 May denied this "provocative allegation." On 25 May Jerusalem radio quoted Begin as announcing that he is ready to meet Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis in Beirut or Jerusalem within 24 hours to sign a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon. AFP, citing sources close to Lebanese President Sarkis, said Lebanon considers Begin's offer of immediate talks with Sarkis as unacceptable and unworthy of an answer.

Habib Mission--U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib's shuttle diplomacy continued over the weekend, according to radio reports. Beirut radio reported that on 22 May Habib met separately with Lebanese President Sarkis and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. The latter expressed cautious optimism after the meeting. According to the radio, Habib returned to Israel on 23 May, although he had been expected to go on to Damascus. Jerusalem radio reported that he paid a courtesy call on Israeli Prime Minister Begin on 23 May. It also said the 24 May Cabinet meeting did not discuss the Habib mission, although an earlier report revealed it was on the agenda. According to Jerusalem television, Prime Minister Begin told reporters after the Cabinet session that Israel has not given Habib a time limit but that when it believes that Habib's efforts are to no avail, it will say so.

Jerusalem radio said Habib will wait in Israel for answers from Riyadh to certain questions and will decide on his future activities later. It noted that Habib brought several proposals from Beirut, including one concerning the establishment of a new government in Lebanon that would provide suitable representation for all sections of the population, but that Begin maintains that the proposals do not substantively change the situation.

The 26 May Jerusalem POST cited a PLO official as saying that, in a meeting with Habib, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad said he would be prepared to withdraw Syrian forces from any part or all parts of Lebanon if requested to do so by the Lebanese president, the lebanese prime minister or the Lebanese parties with whom Habib had met.

Israeli Support for Lebanese Christians--ITIM carried a statement released by Prime Minister Begin's office on 24 May revealing that in August 1978 Israel promised a delegation of Lebanese Christians that it would use its air force to defend the Lebanese Christians against any attack by the Syrian Air Force. On 8 April 1981, Israel decided to send an announcement to the Christian leadership in northern Lebanon, the statement said, reiterating its promise of August 1978. However, Begin's office denied that Israel had given the Christians any written commitment, asserting that the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee is responsible for this "distorted leak." A report that Israel has given a written commitment of support for Phalangist leader Bashir al-Jumayyil was publicized on the same day by the newspaper HA'ARETZ, citing informed Israeli sources.

Ri'fat al-Asad in Riyadh--According to Damascus radio, Ri'fat al-Asad, brother of President Hafiz al-Asad and member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party conveyed a message from President al-Asad to Saudi King Khalid ibn 'abd al-'Aziz on 23 May during a visit to Saudi Arabia.

Egyptian Message--Jerusalem radio reported that the Egyptian ambassador to Israel delivered a message on 22 May from Egyptian Fresident Anwar as-Sadat to Israeli Prime Minister Begin. According to the radio, the message included a request that Israel show restraint in the Lebanese crisis and refrain from carrying out hostile acts.

Arab League Conference

Council Statement--A statement issued by the Arab League council at the close of its 22 May Tunis conference, transmitted by the GULF NEWS AGENCY, said the security doctrine by which Israel claims freedom of action in Lebanon constitutes a dangerous precedent that threatens international peace and security. The council therefore approved the Arab states' support for Syria in repulsing Israeli aggression by all available means, including the participation of the Arab armed forces under the Arab League Charter and the collective Arab defense pact. It also decided to support Lebanon's unity, independence and sovereignty and Lebanese President Sarkis' efforts to bring about national reconciliation, to support the PLO with all available means and to support its call for Arab volunteers to take part in the liberation of the occupied territories, primarily Jerusalem. The council called on the United States to stop supporting Israel.

Palestinian Memorandum--According to INA, a Palestinian memorandum to the council included a call for the opening of all Arab fronts to the Palestinian revolution, giving all facilities to it and to all the Palestinians working in the Arab countries who are included in the general mobilization law. It also called for the convening of an emergency Arab summit and a meeting of the Joint Arab Defense Council.

Al-Qadhdhafi Message--According to JANA, a telegram from Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the heads of state of all member countries of the Arab League called for the urgent dispatch of regular naval, air and ground forces to fight Israeli aggression.

Egyptian Reaction--In a 23 May commentary on the resolutions issued by the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis, Cairo radio questioned how the Arabs can want peace when they have called for volunteers for the liberation of Palestine. It said the Arab foreign ministers should have drawn up a comprehensive Arab solution for the Lebanese crisis.

As-Sadat Visit to Sudan

As-Sadat, Numayri Press Conference--Cairo radio carried materials on Egyptian President as-Sadat's 2-day visit to Sudan on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of Sudan's May revolution. At a 25 May Khartoum press conference held by Sudanese President Ja'far

Muhammad Numayri and President as-Sadat, carried live by Cairo radio, the latter said there is no need for foreign soldiers in Egypt or Sudan since both countries have their own soldiers. He said Egypt is not prepared to allow any foreign side to intervene to defend it but will always ask the United States to carry out its role in the area. As-Sadat announced that he would give the United States facilities to reach any Arab country on the Gulf or any Islamic country as far away as Indonesia. He said he was speaking of facilities and not bases, since "the age of bases is over for good." He disclosed that in conversations with the U.S. Government he has suggested that the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) be stationed in the Red Sea area rather than in the Indian Ocean. He noted that Saudi Arabia is still discussing the issue and that if Riyadh refuses to have the RDF, Egypt will take it. Referring to the Palestine National Council's recent meeting in Damascus, Sudanese President Numayri said that instead of working to unite the Arabs. it had adopted resolutions punishing them, particularly Egypt and Sudan. He also maintained that Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is not a genuine Arab leader and plots against the Arabs. Numayri criticized the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front for holding fast only to Moscow's instructions.

Numayri Speech--In a 24 May speech on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the May revolution, carried live by Omdurman radio, Numayri said it is a prerequisite of Arab and Islamic solidarity that Egypt not be isolated from the Arab Islamic nation. He said Sudan is ready to participate in any and every Arab effort to convene an Arab summit in which Egypt will participate with the aim of reaching a formula for united Arab action and within the framework of the decisions of the Algiers and Rabat summits.

Libyan Reaction--A statement issued on 24 May by Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat following weekend talks in Libya labeled Egyptian President as-Sadat's visit to Sudan as "another act in the series of treason" and called Sudanese President Numayri's invitation to As-Sadat a "flagrant violation" of the resolutions of the Baghdad and Tunis summits. The statement, carried by JANA, called for the suspension of Sudan's membership in the Arab League, the severing of diplomatic and political relations with Sudan and the application of the rules of the Arab boycott to Sudan.

Arab Ambassadors Leave Sudan--Libya's Voice of the Arab Homeland radio reported on 24 May that the Arab ambassadors in Sudan have decided to leave the country to protest President as-Sadat's visit to Khartoum. Other monitored Arab media have not reported this decision.

Syrian Reaction—SANA, citing a Syrian Foreign Ministry source, said Egyptian President as-Sadat's visit to Khartoum contravenes all the Arab resolutions on the boycott of the Egyptian regime and is contrary to the Arab nation's supreme interests. The sources said the Syrian Government has decided not to send its ambassador to Khartoum.

Gulf Cooperation Council

Abu Dhabi radio reported that the Gulf foreign ministers, meeting in Abu Dhabi over the weekend in preparation for the Gulf summit, nominated former Kuwaiti envoy to the United Nations 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah as secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council. GNA quoted the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs as saying that the ministers also reviewed the economic situation and possibilities for economic cooperation. According to Abu Dhabi television, the Gulf summit conference opened yesterday and was addressed by the Arab League and Islamic Conference Organization secretaries general, Chedli Klibi and Habib Chatti.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Tehran radio reported th : the Gamishan heights in the western part of the country were occupied by Iranian forces on 22 May after a 9-hour seige. The radio said 300 Iraqi servicemen were killed and many others taken prisoner. Citing an armed forces communique, the radio also reported that 15 tanks and 6 antiaircraft guns were destroyed in Darkhovin on 23 May. On 25 May the radio announced that 694 Iraqi soldiers had been captured on the Shush and Allaho Akbar fronts and on the fronts west of Susangerd during the previous 3 days. A later radio report said that 130 Iraqis had been killed or wounded in the Abadan sector. Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communiques, carried by INA, reported heavy Iranian losses over the weekend and detailed clashes on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab ans Shush fronts. The 23 May communique said two Iranian helicopters had been downed south of Ahvaz city. The 25 May communique reported the downing of two others in the southern sector.

Iran

In an interview carried by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Reyshari, president of the Armed Forces Revolution Court, revealed that 18 members of the recently founded Pars organization had been arrested in connection with the planned overthrow of the government. According to Reyshari, approximately 300 people were involved with this organization, which he claimed was connected with the Tabas incident, the abortive coup of July 1980 and the Iran-Iraq conflict.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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REAGAN REMARKS SEEN AS 'GREEN LIGHT' FOR ISRAEL

JN251626 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1505 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] Washington--In his first remarks on the current developments in the region, U.S. President Reagan declared that Israel is a first-rate strategic (?asset) of the United States. He added that Israel is an ally whose military forces constitute a deterrent factor against what he called the Soviet aggression in the Middle East. In a message to a conference of U.S. Zionist organizations, Reagan said that when the United States supports Israel's security by providing military and economic aid, it promotes U.S. strategic interests and participates in achieving peace and stability in the region.

Observers view Reagan's statement as a U.S. green light for Israel to launch aggression against Lebanon, the Palestinian revolution and Syria. These statements come shortly after the issuance of the resolutions of the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting in Tunis. Thus these statements are seen as a U.S. challenge to the Arab nation and a reply to the resolutions of the Arab foreign ministers.

VOP COMMENTS ON ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

JN221831 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 May 81

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] At last the Arab foreign ministers conference will convene thanks to the Palestinian efforts not only in preparing for it but in calling for its convocation as well. The PLO, which holds the barometer of the Arab political condition and the development of the Arab-Zionist struggle in its hands, had to take the initiative under the current circumstances, call for the convocation of this conference and participate in reaching the minimum agreement for holding it among all sides.

The PLO has been able to clearly foretell the course of the fateful Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism. The PLO has been closely observing and following up on all the imperialist-Zionist designs in our region. The PLO Executive Committee chairman frequently has [words indistinct]. In addition to all this, the PLO is the side capable of calling on everybody to adopt certain measures or to agree on [words indistinct]. In this, the PLO is not basing itself on a narrow or temporal angle, but on a wide Arab angle that [words indistinct] and threatens its security. Therefore, it is not strange that the PLO is represented at the conference on the highest level. Consequently, it is natural to hear brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] underlining the necessity of adopting a unified and decisive Arab stand and pushing for the convocation of an emergency Arab summit conference.

Why are we pushing for the convocation of an emergency Arab summit conference? First: Because what is currently being implemented is a reckless U.S.-Israeli attempt to penetrate the wall of rejection besieging the Camp David accords, which primarily depend on the Israeli war machine and on the isolationist agents. It seems that this U.S. attempt is based on [words indistinct] of not recognizing the Palestinian people's rights and attempting to strike at and put an end to the Palestinian revolution [words indistinct] whose last act was putting Sinai under a multi-national force.

This victory has been achieved by the steadfast powers, foremost among them the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and Syria, throughout the past 2 years. The prevailing circumstances also demand a Soviet presence in the region since it would signify the presence of a strong ally and a powerful and basic supporter of the Arab national liberation and progress movement based on the fact that the Soviet Union is united with all those powers hostile to imperialism, Israel and all their allies.

Hence, we see that the Arab foreign ministers conference and any future Arab conference should first of all back the steadfast powers represented in the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and Syria. This backing should necessarily be political.

In addition, the Arabs should place all their capabilities at the service of these steadfast powers [words indistinct] to draw up a clearly defined plan for facing this imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Under the current conditions it is also necessary to address a final warning to those sides cooperating with Israel. [words indistinct].

MATERIALS ON ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

Open Session

LD221954 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] The Arab League opened its foreign ministers meeting at 1935 today at the conference palace in Tunis under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the deputy Kuwaiti prime minister and foreign minister. Kuwait is the chairman of the current Arab League session.

The opening session was attended by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

The Saudi foreign minister and the foreign ministers of Iraq and Jordan arrived in Tunis this evening for the conference.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal al Sa'ud said that the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers will be devoted to discussing the threats against Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine resistance. It takes place, he went on, at a time when Israeli intentions have become obvious. He expressed his hope that the meeting will end in the definition of a joint Arab stand against the Zionist challenges.

The Jordanian foreign minister, Marwan al-Qasim, stated that the presence of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon was a legitimate right necessary to safeguard the Arab Deterrent Forces and that these were defensive weapons. He expressed the hope that the installation of these missiles is primarily intended to protect the Palestine revolutionary groups and that the missiles would not be confined to one area only.

Klibi, As-Sabah Addresses

LD222258 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2135 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Tunis, 22 May (SPA)--The foreign ministers of the Arab states began a closed session this evening in the framework of the Arab foreign ministers' extraordinary meeting. Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, attended a part of the closed session and addressed the meeting.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi made a speech at the opening session of the meeting, stressing that the Arab nation is currently going through a difficult period, and that the first cause of the weakness of the Arab political activity is the fragmentation of Arab ranks due to increasing marginal disputes. Mr Klibi also called for standing up to the challenges of the Zionist enemy by setting aside marginal disputes, sticking to the inter-Arab solidarity charter laid down by the 1905 Casablanca Arab summit conference and halting all propaganda campaigns, which arose grudges and deepen quarrels in the Arab world. In his speech, the Arab League secretary general also touched on the situation in Lebanon. He stressed that the Zionist enemy continues to impede Lebanese national reconciliation and to create the conditions for (fratricdal) fighting, with the aime of striking at legitimacy in Lebanon, liquidating the Palestinian resistance and seizing more Arab territory.

His royal highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and forign minister, also addressed the opening session, stressing that the quick response of the Arab states to the convening of this meeting showed that they realize the danger to the Arab fate posed by the threats and challenges of the Zionist enemy.

The Kuwaiti official explained that the first requirement of a confrontation of the Zionist challenge is to take measures to implement previously adopted accords and resolutions for joint Arab action. He urged that all aid and support be given to Lebanon to help it achieve security and national unity. He also called for support to the resistance of the Palestinian people in facing up to the intensifying Israeli aggression and for energetically supporting Syria in its confrontation of the pressures and challenges to which it is being subjected.

'Arafat Address

NC231404 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1236 GMT 23 May 81

["Text" of speech delivered by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 22 May at the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse]

Brothers: This extraordinary meeting, which the Algerian republic has convened in order to confront the difficult and serious challenges surrounding our Arab nation under the present circumstances at this delicate and serious stage through which the Arab nation is passing, in the face of the Israeli challenges and the Israeli military escalation against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples--I say that this blessed meeting of ours under these circumstances means a real renewal of the concept of Arab solidarity in the face of the real danger--the Zionist danger and the Zionist occupation of our land and our holy Jerusalem and of our Arab and Palestinian territories.

I hope that the brothers in Algeria will accept my profound gratitude and that of the PLO, the Palestinian people and the Palestinian strugglers for their initiative in convening this meeting. I also thank my brothers in the Arab states who quickly responded to this invitation and announced their frank and clear stands on the side of the PLO, Syria and fraternal Lebanon. I thank all of you for responding to this invitation and for attending this extraordinary conference.

As you know, the PLO has been establishing contacts since the crisis began in Lebanon and immediately following the convocation of the Palestine National Council. In view of the serious events, we were compelled to cancel 2 days of our meetings to be present in our places and carry out our struggle duties. Since then, the PLO has been in contact with all Arab brothers, leaders and officials with a view to adopting a united stand in confronting the challenges that we--the Arab nation and Palestinian people--are now facing.

Brothers, there is a U.S.-Israeli decision. The Zionist enemy is escalating his criminal military operations against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. This is not all and I would like you to know that what we are facing now is an indivisible part of the Camp David plot in which the United States, Israel and their agents in the area are involved. It is no coincidence that our Arab region is now surrounded by three U.S. naval fleets. The 3d Fleet is in the Mediterranean and the 5th and 6th Fleets are in the Red Sea, Indian Ocean and the Gulf. This is not all. There is also the decision providing for the formation of the so-called Rapid Deployment Force to control our Arab region because of its strategic positon and because of the fact that 80 percent of the petroleum reserve in the world is found in this area. Petroleum is the lifeline of the world.

Furthermore, there are, regrettably, the U.S. military bases which have forged their way and became an established fact in our Arab territory--in Egypt, Berbera, Masirah and elsewhere. Continuous pressures are being exerted on all our Arab countries to give facilities to the United States and make more concessions in order that the United States may further tighten its grip on the Arab nation.

At this particular time, the Zionist enemy is most arrogantly and haughtily carrying out physical liquidations in our occupied territory, confiscating lands, establishing settlements and arresting our kinsmen. There are 24,000 male and female strugglers in the enemy's prisons. This is in addition to the assassination attempts being made against our leaders in the occupied territory. Some of these attempts have succeeded, as happened in Naf'ah Prison, where three of our leading cadres were martyred. I must remind you of what happened to Bassam ash-Shak'ah, Ibrahim at-Tawil and Karim Khalaf. This is not all. Leaders are being continuously expelled. Jerusalem, the holy lands and the Ibrahimi Mosque have been Judaized. All these savage and criminal actions and more are taking place inside the occupied territory.

There is also a war of extermination and attrition against the Palestinian people, not only inside the occupied territory but also outside it. Our brotherly struggling Lebanese people, especially in southern Lebanon, are sharing with us in this painful fate. Since August 1980, we have been facing a war of attrition by the admission of the Israeli military and political officials, who are fully backed by the United States. The Israeli enemy is using the most up-to-date U.S. war machines against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. For 9 months we have been facing a war of attrition, which began with the attempt to occupy Saladin's castle--the Ash-Shaqif castle. The enemy failed thanks to the steadfastness of the joint forces.

Our enemy is using the most up-to-date weapons, including those that are internationally banned, until we have become an experimental field for these weapons, which are raining on us from the air, from the sea and from the ground in a war of extermination, as Begin said on 11 May. Begin said that Israel is in agreement with the United States on three points: first, continuing the war of extermination against the Palestinian people and the PLO; second, forcing the Arab Deterrent Forces to leave Lebanon; third, confronting the Soviet danger in the Middle East.

A few days ago Begin spoke in the Qiryat Shemona settlement, threatening war and the destruction and crushing of the Palestinians. Other Zionist generals also spoke, all threatening that they would liquidate the Palestinian revolution and exterminate the Palestinian people.

I also remind you of the U.S. support, represented by the remarks made by Allen, the national security adviser in the current U.S. administration, in which he spoke of Israel's right of hot pursuit of the Palestinians. In his interview, Reagan also concentrated his attacks on the PLO. This is in addition to statements made by the official White House spokesman and the recent remarks by Haig in which he attacked the PLO and Syria. All these statements are absolute and explicit proof that the United States wants to liquidate the Palestinian people and revolution and to strike at fraternal Syria.

I am hereby giving information and not analyzing it. It is my right to put this information before you and to explain these massacres and this war of extermination. In the name of all the holy things and ideals that join us, I appeal to you to stand alongside our Palestinian people in these decisive and grave moments.

I take this opportunity to thank the Arab League secretary general, who has remained in touch with us from the first moment. We thank him for his efforts. I thank him in the name of the Palestinian strugglers and people. I ask the brother secretary general to distribute this report, which contains sequenced information on the events that have occurred for 148 days--that is, since 1 January 1981--and which explains the attacks that began with a dogfight in which two Syrian planes and one Zionist plane were downed.

Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] then reviewed the report in detail and enumerated the events that had occurred during that period. He then said: It would be very useful to recount some of the events that happened during the crisis after the Arab Deterrent Forces had carried out their duty in Zahlah, where they were attacked.

Several months ago, during meetings with Syrian military officials and with President al-Asad, I warned against the dangers of what was happening in Zahlah, in the Sannin mountains and on the Zahlah hills. What happened then, battles occurred on the Zahlah and Sannin hills. Many of you were surprised at the violence of these battles. However, there was no fighting in Zahlah. When France sent two planes to transport the wounded from Zahlah, there were only four wounded people.

Discussing the importance of Zahlah, brother Abu 'Ammar said: The importance of Zahlah stems from the Israeli position in the south and the Israeli-U.S. plan in the south. He added: There is a 9-kilometer gap in front of An-Nabatiyah fortress, parallel to Al-Litani River. I asked Waldheim and the UN forces commanders to close this gap. However, they answered that they could not do so because Israel prevents the presence of the UN forces in this gap. Israel recently tried to occupy the Ash-Shaqif castle, Al-Jurmuq, Ar-Rayhan and Al-'Ayshiyah, because this would have enabled it to reach dibbin gate and the road to Zahlah would have been opened. Zahlah is, therefore, tied to this Israeli-U.S. plan, the object of which is to surround our Palestinian forces and the joint forces and separate Lebanon from Syria, which is our only route of supply.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: It is no secret that we are surrounded on land and from the air and sea and that Syria is our only route. He then said: Israel, the United States and some forces collaborating with them want to liquidate and exterminate the Palestinian revolution and deal a strong blow to the Syrian forces. He added: After Presidents Sarkis and al-Asad had agreed on some points regarding detente in Lebanon and bringing about psychological and political relaxation through the aforementioned 14 points [as heard], Israel immediately intervened by shooting down two Syrian planes. Syria then introduced the SAM defensive missiles.

Brother Abu 'Ammar then said: Israel considers the defensive missiles as offensive weapons, while you agreed that the Arab Deterrent Forces and their weapons should enter. Is the armored vehicle not an offensive weapon? Is the artillery gun not an offensive weapon? Therefore, why is the United States attacking Syria and why has it sent Philip Habib to the area and why has it sent its fleets to the area? There is a coordinated action--and not just a show of force--aimed at implementing the Camp David plan and subjugating the area.

When we met in Baghdad and said no to Camp David it became necessary for them to disperse this Arab solidarity. They imagined that Egypt's signing of the Camp David agreements would be followed by others. Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We denounced the plot and drew up a plan to thwart it. I agree with the Arab League secretary general in what he said to the effect that some states had their differences with Syria but they now say they are with Syria. This is encouraging. He then said: Amid all of this, we must remember that we need a new stand. This meeting is blessed because we are on a crossroad and the question is one of "to be or not to be. Syria and the Palestinian resolution have adopted a firm stand against the Israeli challenges and threats. All the Arab countries have adopted a stand of firm support for the Palestinian revolution and Syria. Our Arab nation can do a great deal; we have the political, military, financial and manpower capabilities.

Brother Abu 'Ammar then said: I agree with (Holdman), who said that the most dangerous thing facing Israel is its false claim that it is strong. I agree with him that this strength is not an indigenous Israeli strength but rather an imported one. Our Arab nation has an indigenous strength.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: We are facing the United States. He added: Is it not a scandal that Habib should announce on the radio that he had met with the Israeli commanders to brief him on the military situation while they did not meet with Begin for the same purpose? The 1973 war proved our ability to close the gap [ath-thaghrah], but for the treason that occurred later on. We are called upon to adopt a protracted stand because history records and does not have mercy on anyone. We in the PLO have adopted a decision, which is to carry on the struggle, carry on the struggle and carry on the struggle until victory.

We will fight to the last drop of blood and the last stone in the hand of a child in the occupied homeland.

Therefore, you are all called upon to state frankly and clearly what you can offer for this battle, to prevent the liquidation of the Palestinian revolution, to prevent the war of extermination against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and to prevent the destruction and hell-like atmosphere in which the two peoples are living and which has covered northern Lebanon recently.

We say that our blood is not water but is the earth's salt. We must pay the price. We are proud that we wake up with a list of casualties and sleep with a list of casualties.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: 54 Zionist Phantom planes dropped 650 tons on 11 positions, killing and wounding 95 people in one day. He added: At this meeting we must speak clearly and sincerely and without courtesy. We must offer what can be offered. History records and shows no mercy.

Concluding his speech, Brother Abu 'Ammar thanked Tunisia--president, government and people--for hosting the conference. He then read the Palestinian working paper.

PLO Memorandum

JN222129 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 22 May 81

[Excerpts] Tunis, 22 May (INA)--The delegations held a closed session, with Yasir 'Arafat attending, to discuss a number of memorandums presented by the Arab League General Secretariat, Algeria, the PLO and Libya on the current situation through which the area is passing and on the escalation of the Zionist entity's provocations and threats.

The Palestinian memorandum includes 18 articles that call for bolstering Arab solidarity, overlooking peripheral disputes, confronting the Zionist invasion and holding the United States responsible for the Zionist's aggressive practices, which are carried out with the use of sophisticated U.S. arms. The articles also call for marshaling Arab energies and potentials for this would bring pressure to bear on the United States. The articles call for military and economic support for Lebanon and the resistance and for supporting the Lebanese president's efforts to achieve national accord.

The Palestinian memorandum condemns U.S. policy, which is hostile to the Palestinian people's national and inalienable rights. It points out that peace in the Middle East cannot be established without the Palestinian option. It also condems the Camp David accords, the self-rule plot and the settlement schemes.

The Palestinian memorandum calls for opening all Arab fronts to the Palestinian revolution, giving all facilities to it and to all the Palestinians working in the Arab countries who are included in the general mobilization law, and opening the door of voluntary service to Arab mujahidin in implementation of the jihad decision adopted at the At-Ta'if conference.

The memorandum also calls for holding an emergency Arab summit and for holding a meeting to the joint Arab defense council in accordance with the requirements and seriousness of the stage. It also calls for considering the current Arab foreign ministers conference to be in a state of permanent session to confront the dangers.

Khaddam Speech

JN230519 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has delivered a speech at the Arab League's emergency session in Tunis in which he stressed Syria's consistent and steadfast stand against Zionist provocations and threats backed by U.S. imperialism. Khaddam also stressed that the location of the missiles and of Syrian soldiers can only be determined by the Arab nation's supreme national interest.

Khaddam warned that Israel, through its threats to make the situation explode, has Syria, the Palestinian cause and the entire Arab nation as its targets. That's why pan-Arab responsibility dictates that all the countries in the Arab homeland must effectively support and assist Syria in its steadfastness and heroic stand against the Zionist threats.

Khaddam wondered how Israel can have the right to interfere in Lebanon, kill its sons and carry out aggressions against its territory while Syria does not have the right to protect the sons, territory and airspace of fraternal Lebanon from this Zionist destruction. Khaddam said: We in Syria have taken every measure to confront the situation on the military, political and economic levels.

Concluding his speech, Khaddam stressed that the struggle against the Zionist enemy concerns the entire Arab nation, not just one Arab country in particular.

Butrus Address

NC230852 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers conference opened yesterday in Tunis, where Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus defined Lebanon's stand. In the speech he delivered at the conference, Butrus said: The question we will discuss today primarily concerns Lebanon because the land of Lebanon, its entity and unity, and the life of the Lebanese and their future are threatened because of the dangers inherent in Israel's actions and challenges. When giving this question the position it deserves in the list of priorities, Lebanon frankly declares that it has not abandoned and that it will not abandon its role in confronting these challenges and in joining the Arab ranks in this respect. It appears that it is Lebanon's destiny that it should remain alone in the battlefield and bear the consequences of the dangers threatening its entity, stability and sovereignty.

We have requested that the Arab League council look into the question of the south. This question is one of the approaches to the solution of the Lebanese crisis and a touchstone of the ability of the Arab group to tackle this crisis and adopt resolutions that would safeguard the state's sovereignty in the operations area of the UN forces and consolidate security in this area preparatory to expanding the government's authority and observing the sanctity of the UN Security Council's resolutions which, regardless of what is said about them, will remain in our view as a strong shield on the moral and legal levels.

Addressing the Arab foreign ministers, Minister Butrus said: It is inadmissable that our country should remain a theater for experiments, fighting, ruination, destruction, eviction and torture. You must help Lebanon transit from its present state to calm security within the framework of a wide march toward conciliation. By adopting a strong stand, you will encourage Lebanon to safeguard its independence, safety and unity against all factors of division and separation. By preserving the justifications for its existence and philosophy in life, you will help save a country that is a founding member of the Arab League.

Minister Butrus stressed the need for a unified and comprehensive Arab strategy that will give Lebanon and its south the attention and care due it. He also stressed the need to return to the spirit that dictated the 1976 Riyadh and Cairo resolutions and consequently the need to implement these resolutions in spirit and substance. He further asserted the need to support the legitimate Lebanese authority with all practical means disregarding all other considerations in order to keep the ghose of division and further disintegration away from the country.

Butrus also demanded that all efforts to end the deterioration of the security situation in Lebanon and restore the situation to normal be supported. He called for supporting everything that would facilitate the accord process, which the Lebanese authorities intend to follow, with the help of their brothers in the Syrian Government.

Minister Butrus said: This is a shout from the heart of a Lebanese citizen who is suffering the tragedy as much as others and who has been destined to occupy a political post at this particular stage. Let your actions toward Lebanon be compatible with your declared policy, regardless of the difficulties that you may meet. This will mark the beginning of the salvation of Lebanon and it will be a service by you to the entire Arab world and to its future. If we do not put a quick, humanitarian and just end to the Lebanese crisis, then this crisis will undoubtedly affect the entire region and will have no mercy on anyone. Let the expression "Arab solidarity" be a criterion of the Arab League's emulation and effectiveness.

Libyan Stance

LD231516 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Tunis--The emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers concluded its work this morning. The conference, which began its work yesterday, issued a statement about the situation in Lebanon and the escalating Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian people.

The Libyan Arab delegation, which took part in the Arab League emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, had reservations about the resolutions of the emergency session which concluded its work this morning in Tunis.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau described the final resolutions of this emergency meeting as a repetition of former resolutions and statements which cannot match the level of challenging the Zionist campaign aimed at the Arab nation. He stated that these resolutions have produced nothing fresh and that they will not halt outside aggression, and that they have not made any condemnation of the United States, which stands behind the Zionist enemy and his arrogance and constant aggressions against southern Lebanon. The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau stressed the Jamahiriyah's continuing backing for the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and Syria in their challenge to this colonialist crisis.

It is worth noting that during the final session, the Libyan Arab delegation optimistically asked the Lebanese delegation if Lebanon would be prepared to receive Arab forces to implement the joint Arab defense agreements. The Jamahiriyah delegation underlined the American role in its continuous support for the Zionist enemy and also the role of the American mediator, who is present in the region, in dictating the Zionist conditions. The secretary of the people's committee underlined the Zionist arrogance in the Zionist enemy's demands for Syria to withdraw the missiles from the Al-Biqa' valley and the Syrian-Lebanese border, and for the Syrian defense not to challenge the aircraft of the Zionist enemy when they raid Lebanon and Syria.

The Libyan Arab delegation called for the Zionist challenge to be confronted through a serious and practical resolution and not through political resolutions and statements. The Libyan delegation proposed that political and economic pressures be applied on america to force it to alter its posture which is hostile to the Arab nation the Libyan Arab delegation demanded the implementation of the joint Arab defense agreements and the translation of former Arab resolutions into practical measures.

The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah previously submitted to the emergency session of the Arab League council, which opened its work in Tunis yesterday, a memorandum about the expulsion of the Sudanese regime from the Arab League and about breaking off relations with it for its offenses against the Arab League by allying itself with the Egyptian regime, restoring relations with it and supporting it in its capitulationist, isolationist steps.

The Jamahiriyah called on the Arab countries to withdraw their ambassadors from Sudan and to take effective measures against this regime since it has become an imperialist agent and servant and has totally disregarded the Tunis and Baghdad summit resolutions.

Conference Statement

JN230755 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Tunis, 23 May (GNA)--The meetings of the emergency Arab foreign ministers conference ended in the Tunisian capital at dawn today. The meetings, which began yesterday, were chaired by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The conference approved the Arab states' support for Syria in repulsing Israeli aggression by all available means, including the participation of the Arab armed forces under the Arab League Charter and the collective Arab defense pact. The conference also decided to back Lebanon's unity, independence and sovereignty over its territory as well as the legitimate government in Lebanon. The following is the text of the statement issued by the conference:

The Arab League Council held an emergency session at the foreign ministers level on 22 May 1981 at its headquarters in Tunis at the request of the Algerian Government to discuss the serious situation in the region. The conference discussed, with a high sense of national [qawmi] responsibility, the explosive situation in the region as a result of Israel's escalated aggression on the Arab nation, interference in the internal affairs of fraternal Lebanon, savage shelling of Lebanese towns and villages and Palestinian camps, war of annihilation against the Palestinian people, attacks on the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF], threats to Syria and proclamation of a security theory which aims at dominating Lebanon, fragmenting its national unity imposing hegemony on the Arab nation. The council has reached the following conclusions:

1. The Israeli security theory, under which Israel has reserved for itself the right to encroach upon Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, strike at Palestinian concentrations and attack the ADF, is an expression of the Israeli enemy's aggressive nature and expansionist designs on Lebanon and the Arab nation. It also constitutes a serious precedent in international relations and a threat to world peace and security.

2. The savage shelling of Lebanese towns and villages and Palestinian camps is aimed at forcing the Arab nation's surrender and liquidating the Palestinian resistance prior to liquidating the Palestine question.

3. The attacks on the ADF on the pretext of protecting a certain Lebanese group reveals Israel's aims and plans to strike at Lebanon's national unity, divide that country into small sectarian states and disrupt the national accord process.

4. The attacks on the ADF and the provocations and threats against Syria are all aimed at making the military situation with Syria and the Arab nation explode in an attempt to impose domination and hegemony on the Arab region.

5. The Israeli enemy's continuation of this policy will inevitably lead to a military explosion, because any Arab retreat before this policy will mean defeat and surrender, and this is what the Arab nation is rejecting with all the means in its power.

6. The unconditional U.S. political, military and material support for Israel is encouraging Israel to continue with its aggressive policies against the Arab nation.

In light of the above, the council decides the following:

1. To resist the theory of Israel's security with all available means and to back Syria's repulse of Israel's exercise of this theory. The council asserts that it stands alongside Syria in repulsing Israel's aggression and provocations.

2. In light of current facts and Israel's actions and preparations, the Arab countries will offer Syria the required aid to repulse the aggression and will place all their capabilities at the disposal of the battle, including their military forces' participation, in accordance with the Arab League Charter and the collective Arab defense pact.

3. The council decides to support Lebanon's unity, independence and territorial integrity and to back the legitimate central government. It asserts the Arab government's readiness to offer all forms of aid requested by the Lebanese Government to confront Israeli aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty and the sanctity of its soil and Israel's intervention in Lebanon's domestic affairs.

4. The council calls for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon. It also calls on the Lebanese sides to achieve national accord. The council also asserts its support for the efforts being exerted by President Sarkis and the Lebanese Government, in cooperation with the Syrian Government, to bring about national accord in accordance with the principles proclaimed by the president of the republic and approved by the Lebanese Government. It warns any Lebanese side against placing any impediments on the road of national accord and against using the Israeli card to obstruct the march of accord. It stresses the determination of the Arab states, singly and collectively, to defend Lebanon's unity and resist all attempts to divide and partition Lebanon with the intention of establishing sectarian entities.

5. The council underlines the necessity of applying the resolutions of the Riyadh and Cairo summit conferences and of activating the followup committee stipulated in these resolutions by meeting on the level of foreign ministers whenever the need arises.

6. The council decides to support the PLO with all means in order to enable it to continue its responsibilities and confront the war of annihilation which the Israeli enemy has waged against it and the Palestinian people. The council asserts its stand alongside the PLO in confronting the Israeli aggressions.

7. The council supports the PLO's call for opening the door of volunteering for the Arab brothers to participate in liberating occupied Palestinian land, particularly holy Jerusalem.

8. The council stresses importance of immediate implementation of the Tunis summit resolution regarding the offering of financial aid for Lebanon and the Palestinian people in southern Lebanon to confront the consequences of the Zionist military escalation and the losses and destruction it causes in lives and property.

9. The council calls on the United States to suspend all types of aid and support for Israel because this support constitutes an aggression against the Arab nation, its dignity and future and against peace and security in the region. Thus, the continuation of support will lead to a serious confrontation between the Arab nation and the United States.

10. The council calls on international public opinion to condemn Israel's policy of aggression and provocation and to support the Arabs in their resistance against it. The council reiterates that the Arab countries will continue to resist the course of the Camp David agreements and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty.

11. The council praises the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied homeland and their rallying around the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

12. The council stresses the importance of consolidating and promoting Arab solidarity and of overcoming peripheral differences to confront the Zionist invasion of our territory and the threats it poses to the entire Arab destiny.

13. The Arab League secretary general is entrusted with following up the developments of the situation and informing Arab governments of the appropriate measures taken.

UAE

PRESIDENT, MINISTER COMMENT ON AREA ISSUES

JN232051 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1940 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 May (GNA)--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan has appealed to all honorable forces in the world to confront the Zionist practices which are bringing the world closer to the brink of war. In a statement released tonight by the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY, His Highness Shaykh Zayid reaffirmed the support of the UAE people and government for the Palestinian people and Syria in their confrontation with the Zionist belligerency. He also voiced support for the legitimate Lebanese authority and for preserving Lebanon's national sovereignty and independence. His highness said: The continuing Zionist crimes in Palestine and Lebanon jeopardize not only Middle East security and stability but the entire world as well and will increase world tension.

His highness added: The injustice and oppression that Israel is practicing in Palestine and in Lebanon, its continued murdering of innocent people and its usurpation of the Arabs' rights and property are taking place undeterred every hour of the day and are threatening to trigger a war in the Middle East that may spread to Europe, Asia and the rest of the world. His highness the UAE president emphasized that Israel's wicked practices have opened wide the door for various moves and attempts to suppress the liberties of peoples like the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan and in the Indian Ocean which is increasing day after day.

Rashid Remarks

JN240643 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2050 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 May (GNA)--Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, has asserted that the Cooperation Council will have a role to play in joint Arab action. In a press conference held tonight, Rashid said that the council's work will be completely independent and will stem from the region's interests and the fact that the Gulf states do not antagonize any international side or power. He denied the presence of any contradiction between the establishment or aims of the council and the Arab League.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, he said that the agenda of the Gulf Cooperation Council's foreign ministers meeting does not contain any article on this topic. However, he said, when the summit meeting is held, the leaders will certainly touch on all topics concerning the Arab and Islamic nation. He denied that a security plan had been submitted to the conference by the sultanate of Oman, but said that several plans and papers have been submitted by some member states. He also denied that the Gulf Cooperation Council has received any Arab requests to join it.

On the Kuwaiti mediation between the PDRY and Oman, he said: This mediation came upon the request of the council's member states and its results will be good, God willing. He added that the results of this mediation have not yet been submitted to the council because mediation is still continuing.

On the cancellation of diplomatic representation among the Gulf Cooperation Council's member states, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs said: Every member state in the council has the components of a state, headed by diplomatic representation. I do not believe that there is an idea now to cancel diplomatic representation.

He announced that the Cooperation Council's foreign ministers discussed during today's session the statute of an arbitration or dispute solving body and the agenda of the summit conference to be held on 25 and 26 May. He added that the conferees also approved the Kuwaiti nomination of 'Abdallah Ya'Qub Bisharah as secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Asked whether there was another nominee for this post, he said that the member states have not submitted any other nominations.

U.S., SUDANESE, EGYPTIAN EMBASSIES ATTACKED

NC251205 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] The embassies of the United States, Egypt and Sudan were the targets of rocket fire after midnight last night, causing material damage and slightly wounding the counselor of the Egyptian Embassy and a guard of the U.S. Embassy.

The details of the incident are as follows: At 0045 today, the U.S. Embassy was the target of three rockets that hit the second and third floors and caused material damage. An embassy guard was slightly wounded.

About the same time, the Sudanese Embassy in the (?Munqarah) building in Madame Curie Street was hit by a rocket, destroying the (?water) tank in the (?area).

At 0100, two RPG shells were fired at the Egyptian Embassy in Ar-Ramlah al-Bayda', hitting the third and (?sixth) floors, slightly wounding embassy counselor (?Yusuf al-Hindi), and shattering the windowpanes of the building, which suffered material damage.

Foreign Ministry Secretary General Kisrawan Labaki contacted the embassies of the United States, Sudan and Egypt to express condemnation of the attacks.

SARKIS, AL-WAZZAN MEET WITH HABIB, DRAPER 22 MAY

NC221754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] At noon today President Ilyas Sarkis received U.S. Envoy Philip Habib, who was accompanied by U.S. Assistant Deputy Secretary of State Morris Draper and U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John Gunther Dean. Following the almost 2-hour meeting, Habib said that he was continuing his diplomatic efforts, but he declined to answer journalists' questions.

At 1600, the U.S. envoy, accompanied by Draper and Dean, left for the office of Prime Minister al-Wazzan in the Serai [government house]. Following the meeting, Mr Habib declined to make any statement. The prime minister, however, said:

[Begin Al-Wazzan recording] Since U.S. Envoy Mr Philip Habib does not wish to disclose the details about his mission, we have no right to make such a disclosure ourselves. However, it can still be said that there are some indications or information that might raise the level of optimism, but they do not remove the worrisome possibilities that must keep us alert and vigilant.

The world must also know that Lebanon is the owner of the land and the owner of the issue. It has already expressed its clear stands on which it is insisting. Furthermore, in solidarity with its Arab brethren, Lebanon, within this framework, is determined to face the Israeli challenges. Lebanon's sufferings are caused by Israeli aggression and plotting. Our Arab brethren, in the name of this solidarity, are called upon to rescue Lebanon on every level. If the Arab foreign ministers are meeting in Tunis today--thus bypassing some differences as an expression of solidarity in the face of the challenges posed by their historic enemy, which is Israel--Lebanon, their brother, is burning and collapsing. It thus deserves a parallel solidarity that would rescue it from the abyss and dangers.

We as Lebanese are also called upon to unitedly confront these challenges. The dangers are surrounding us from every direction and are coming from inside and outside [the country]. We have no option except national concord for it is the only alternative to all the destruction, ruination and death that is taking place. It is high time that we turn all the rifles where they should be turned, that is toward the Israeli enemy, who is the real enemy of our entity, existence and destiny. [end recording]

AL-WAZZAN MAKES STATEMENT AFTER SARKIS MEETING

NC251414 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] This morning, the president held a meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. They discussed the security and political situation, Philip Habib's mission in the current phase and the activation of the contacts with Damascus to resume Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's mission within the framework of the dialogue connected with the security and political accord.

Upon leaving the presidential palace, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: I can convey some kind of reassurance, which is beginning to prevail as a result of the relaxation we are witnessing, particularly after the collective Arab stand from which we hope some good will come. He added: Everything that is taking place makes us hope for positive stands, which we hope will bring good to Lebanon.

Replying to a question, he said: We are not depending on what will come from the U.S. envoy only, but on what will emanate here from our will and our actions and primarily from our Arab brothers.

On the implementation of the Tunis resolutions and the resumption of the Arab followup committee's activities, he said: When this is decided at the Arab foreign ministers council, we must see that we implement it. We are awaiting the return of Minister Butrus to discuss this matter with him.

The prime minister denied that they discussed a security plan at the meeting.

AL-WAZZAN REPLIES TO 'ISRAELI DISTORTIONS'

NC251834 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] In reply to the Israeli distortion campaign on alleged Lebanese proposals, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has said the following:

I wish to confirm the sole Lebanese stand we conveyed to U.S. Envoy Philip Habib: solidarity with Syria in its stand against the Israeli challenges and our rejection of the Israeli demands, whether concerning the Sannin heights or the presence of the missiles in Al-Biqa'. Any stands outside this framework, whether expressed by Begin or by any other person, are false allegations and are mere Israeli conspiratorial distortions, to which we have become accustomed.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: In any case, the Lebanese stand was very clear at the recent Arab foreign ministers conference, where there was complete coordination between the Lebanese delegation and the sisterly ones, particularly the Syrian delegation.

BEIRUT SOURCE TERMS BEGIN OFFER 'MANEUVER'

NC252225 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 25 May 81

[Excerpt] Beirut, 25 May (AFP)--Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's offer last night to meet immediately with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis to seek peace was "a maneuver that does not merit an answer," an unofficial source close to the president's office commented.

"It is not the first time Israeli leaders have proposed such invitations, which everybody knows are unacceptable," the source added.

Lebanese officials refused to comment on Mr Begin's election rally speech remark.

SHAM'UN RECEIVES MARONITE DELEGATION 25 MAY

NC251626 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] A delegation of the independent Maronites deputies, including Minister al-Hirawi and Deputies Harb and Khazin, visited [former] President Sham'un this morning and discussed the general situation with him.

Following the meeting, Minister al-Hirawi said: We are awaiting the decisions that are expected to be issued by Saudi Arabia.

On the situation in Zahlah, he said: The situation there is the same, although there are slight eruptions in some places from time to time.

Sham'un said that he was awaiting Minister Butrus' return to Lebanon to learn what had been discussed at the Tunis conference.

On the situation in Al-'Aqurah, Sham'un requested that precautionary measures be taken by the Lebanese Army.

FORMER PRESIDENT ATTACKS AS-SADAT STATEMENT

NC231459 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] President as-Sadat has asked Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to halt the escalation of military operations in Lebanon because they do not help the establishment of peace in the Middle East. This was reported in today's issue of the Egyptian OCTOBER magazine, which stated that this was outlined in President as-Sadat's message to Begin yesterday, Friday.

In his message President as-Sadat defamed former President Camille Sham'un's patriotism and loyalty.

In reply to As-Sadat's statement, former President Sham'un said to the Voice of Lebanon: I do not want to comment on what he said because it is a kind of Egyptian charlatanry. As-Sadat himself knows who has become outcast by 120 million Arabs. Thus, he has no right to give his opinion on patriotism and loyalty to the homeland.

PHALANGIST LEADER REACTS TO TUNIS RESOLUTIONS

NC231816 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Regarding the Tunis resolutions, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil wondered when the practical indications of support for Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and legitimacy will materialize.

Al-Jumayyil said that all these statements were often reiterated at all Arab conferences at a time when legitimacy, sovereignty and independence continue to be violated.

The Phalangist leader said: The basic problem in Lebanon is not the differences over the confrontation between the Arabs and Israel or over the Palestinian problem. The points of disagreement lie between the Syrians and the Lebanese and the Palestinians over the Palestinian and Syrian presence in Lebanon. Given this status quo in Lebanon, I would like to ask: Which Arab country would agree to be eliminated as an entity and lose its sovereignty, authority and regime for the goals of others, whomever they may be?

Al-Jumayyil said: In any case, I hope that the conference's resolutions this time will be associated with some practical moves in favor of Lebanon now that the Arab countries have seen how the failure to tackle the Lebanese question drives the entire Arab issue to a grave juncture.

SYRIANS REPORTEDLY INSTALL MORE SAM BATTERIES

NC231326 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Reports today say that the Syrians have installed three SAM batteries on the Riyaq-(Dayr Zanun) road, in addition to a network of antiaircraft guns equipped with radar.

SYRIAN CONVOYS REPORTEDLY ENTER AL-BIQA' 24 MAY

NC241952 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] At about 2000 today, several shells disturbed the calm in Beirut on the Al-Barjawi axis. Eighty two-mm mortar and RPG shells were fired at the Lebanese Army positions in Al-Barjawi from Syrian and Palestinian positions.

Scores of shells have landed in a suburb of the town of Al-'Aqurah, damaging the house of (Nazir Shukrallah al-Hashim) and the car of (Salah Antoine al-Hashim).

At about 2000, the Syrians intensified their sniper fire on Zahlah and Qa' r-Rim from the hills of Harqat and on Al-Mu'allaqah and Hawsh al-Umara' from (Al-Kark).

At 1830, two B-7 shells fell on Al-Mu'allaqah. This was followed by sniper fire.

Our correspondent has reported that Syrian convoys have been seen since 1930 and up to now entering Al-Biqa' on the Al-Masna' Road.

The skies over Al-Biqa', as well as those of Beirut and the south, were today the scene of many Israeli military flights. In Al-Biqa', Israeli aircraft carried out two sorties, breaking the sound barrier in the second, but the Syrians did not fire their SAM missiles.

VOL REPORTS ISRAELI INFILTRATION INTO SOUTH

NC242041 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] Newspaper correspondents in Shab'a have reported that Israeli engineering units today infiltrated 5 km inside the western sector--controlled by the Norwegian UNIFIL contingent--protected by scores of armored vehicles.

Eyewitnesses said that the Israelis had begun digging a road surrounding Mount Hermon, where the Austrian contingent of the United Nations Disengagement Forces is stationed, on the Golan Heights. This area is adjacent to the sector controlled by the Norwegian contingent, camped in Ibil as-Saqi.

It should be recalled that between the eastern foot of the Golan Heights and the northern sector of southern Lebanon there is a 9-km gap where there are no UN forces.

ISRAELI PLANE REPORTED DOWNED OVER AL-BIQA'

NC221225 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1218 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] A third Israeli reconnaissance plane has been downed over Al-Biqa' by SAM missiles. Our correspondent reports that the Israeli plane was hit when flying over Kifrayya and Jubb Jannin in Western Al-Biqa' at 1230.

DAMASCUS: ISRAELI PLANE DOWNED OVER SYRIA

JN251620 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: At 1342 on Monday, 25 May 1981, an enemy reconnaissance plane violated Syrian airspace. Our air defenses intercepted the plane, downing it in the Az-Zabadani area. The plane's wreckage has been collected from the area, 1 km west of the township of Madaya.

The Israeli military spokesman has admitted the downing of the plane.

KHADDAM RETURNS FROM TUNIS CONFERENCE 23 MAY

JN231231 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1205 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Damascus, 23 May (SANA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him returned here this morning after participating in the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting in Tunis, which ended early this morning.

KHADDAM BRIEFS CABINET ON LEBANON SITUATION

JN251257 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 May 81

[Excerpt] Damascus--The Cabinet met at 1100 today under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

At the beginning of the meeting, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, submitted a political report to the Cabinet explaining Syria's stand on the various current developments, The Israeli enemy's schemes, his hostile objectives and his recurrent provocations which aim at foiling Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon. Khaddam also explained the details pertaining to the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis which had adopted the Syrian plan for action and confrontation.

Khaddam stressed that Syria's stand is strong and firm and is supported by all the Arabs and international public opinion and that Syria continues to reject any threat and pressure. Syria is proceeding with its confrontation and preparation to face any aggression at any time.

After Khaddam completed his political report, the Cabinet discussed the current situation from all its aspects, then began by evaluating the Government's methods in the implementation of its programs, projects and following up of its measures in all fields.

DAMASCUS: TUNIS RESOLUTIONS DICTATE ARAB STAND

JN251543 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] Every Arab hopes that the stand on the Zionist aggression and on the U.S. escalation of this aggression will measure up to the danger threatening our nation's fate and existence.

Following the issuance of the Tunis statement, many matters became clear. Indeed, all the Arabs became convinced that the United States is a direct partner of Israel and the challenge Israel poses to the Arab nation and its future aspiration.

In regarding U.S. support for the Zionists as tantamount to blatant aggression against Arab rights, the statement provided further proof of the true colors of the United States. In fact, as our experiences and events prove, the United States is participating in a dangerous scheme to undermine our nation's steadfastness and entrench the Zionist occupation of parts of the Arab territory.

No sooner had the Arab foreign ministers ended their emergency conference than Zionist terrorist Menahem Begin disclosed the truth about the agentry of the isolationists in Lebanon and their definite association with the new formula of the big scheme, which is directed not only against the Lebanese people but also against the Arab nation and its inalienable and legitimate rights.

When Begin revealed the truth and announced that there exists a written agreement between the isolationists and Zionists, he further confirmed Arab Syria's viewpoint. Such a truth also affirmed to all those who had entertained the slightest doubts that the fascist Phalangists are no less dangerous than Israel and its agent As-Sadat.

Thus, when Begin exposed the truth about the Phalangists' agentry to the Zionists, the apostate As-Sadat emerged to continue the plot against the unity of the Arab ranks and their confrontation of the treasonous Camp David accords.

The United States, which took those accords under its wing and defended them, began to aspire to transform these accords into an open military and political alliance, particularly now that As-Sadat and his regime have given the U.S. forces the right to occupy the Sinai and now that the United States has obtained military facilities and bases in Egypt, Sudan and on the fringe of the Arab Gulf--Oman.

Thus, As-Sadat's visit to Khartoum is just one element of the alliance prepared by the United States. In fact, the United States has provided the causes and requisites for such an alliance to emerge in the region's arena of events. This alliance would in turn be resorted to by Israel in its infiltration of the Arab homeland at the expense of this homeland's sons.

As logic behooves us as Arabs not to negotiate with As-Sadat following his treason and apostasy, duty behooves the Arab nation to be aware of the threats posed by As-Sadat's regime and the consequences of such threats. This means above all that the Arab regimes colluding with As-Sadat and yielding to the series of U.S. deceptions should be confronted.

As the sequence of events directs an accusing finger at Washington anti-Arab policy. U.S. President Ronald Reagan reaffirmed that the cohesion between the United States and Israel is strategic and fateful, adding that the United States believes that the Israeli military power must not be minimized since it furthers U.S. goals and aspirations: imposing hegemony over the entire Middle East.

As is his custom, the U.S. President justified his administration's allegiance to Israel in terms of the so-called Soviet expansion, a notion which has previously been promoted by the deceiving Western organs and used as a screen behind which they advance toward several regions in the Arab homeland.

Thus, the Arabs are called on to be aware of the goals of the deceptive U.S. policy, which is seeking to link the Arabs and Israel under its umbrella and under the pretext that it is necessary to confront the Soviet Union. Thus, the U.S. strategists would attain the results they are seeking through the Camp David accords and their treasonous [word indistinct].

For the Arab dignity to achieve victory, the Tunis conference's resolutions should dictate the sound stand.

The U.S. aggression exists and is escalating as manifested by the Zionists intentions. The stand of steadfastness and confrontation is the fateful and sound stand to be adopted in the face of any possible aggression.

Although Arab Syria embodied the pan-Arab stand through moving from the stage of steadfastness to that of confrontation, taking all possibilities into consideration and arranging its reality in such a way that it accords with the battle of the Arab future, Arab Syria insists that the battle of Arabism be one battle, particularly since Syria's presence on the frontline in defense of the Arab nation behooves every Arab to support Syria in its defense of his very existence, security and the future of Arab soil.

RIF'AT AL-ASAD CONVEYS MESSAGE TO SAUDI KING

JN231229 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Riyadh--Comrade Rif'at al-Asad, member of the regional commando of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia when received by the king today. The meeting was attended by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince: Prince Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; Dr Rashad Fir'Awn, adviser to his majesty the king and Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz at-Tuwayjiri, deputy commander of the National Guard.

Comrade Dr Rif'at al-Asad arrived in Riyadh this afternoon where he was met at the airport by Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and a number of Saudi officials.

Returns to Damascus

JN241648 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] Comrade Dr Rif'at al-Asad, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party regional command, returned to Damascus from Riyadh at 1500 today at the end of a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he conveyed to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz a message from President Hafiz al-Asad.

His majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received comrade Dr Rif'at al-Asad at noon today in the presence of 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. His Majesty King Khalid stressed Saudi Arabia's full support for Syria in its steadfast stands under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

This morning, comrade Dr Rif'at al-Asad visited the headquarters of the Saudi National Guard. He was welcomed by Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, 2d deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, accompanied him on this visit.

COMMENTARY ON ISRAELI DEMANDS, CONFRONTATION

22 May Damascus Radio Comment

JN221413 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] It was clear to the Arab masses and the world that President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with the U.S. television networks left a very eloquent impression. During the interview, the stand of Arab Syria was crystallized and all Zionist allegations regarding the so-called Syrian missile crisis were exposed.

President al-Asad's interview was not only a clear and conclusive response, but was also a true expression of the Arab will embodied in a clear and unified stand on the sanctity of defending Arab honor and dignity.

The frank and honest voice of Syria intelligently and scientifically revealed the true situation as the course of the Arab people's will. This will is springing forth with determination and clarity to promote the noble pan-Arab feeling and to put forth a firm statement in the arena clearly delineating the Arab course, which cannot be achieved through surrender and treason but through the legitimate defense of the usurped Arab right and the Arab dignity, which is under attack.

As everyone knows, Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis today confirm that the Arabs are rallying around the Arabs' cause and express the voice of Syria, which has firmly and resolutely confronted all the Zionist lies and contentions in accordance with President al-Asad's statement that we are firmly standing to defend our Arabism, dignity and rights and that we are not an aggressive people but a will that resists violations of its own home.

The historic responsibility facing the Arab foreign ministers today is great. It is as great as the events which are taking place in the region. The foreign ministers realize with full awareness and confidence the scope and gravity of this responsibility, just as the Zionist enemy realizes the meaning of the embodiment of the Arab will in one unified, confident, strong voice in the face of all its allegations, contentions and intentions.

The Arab response to Begin's allegations and maneuvers--this response is embodied in this confident stand--is a response to all the future plans of imperialism and expansionism. This response represses all imperialist designs attacking the freedom of the peoples, their dignity and their right to exist.

The stand of Arab Syria, in defending the right of Lebanon to peacefully exist, the dignity of the Arab land and the security of the Arab individual is a just and legitimate stand. This stand requires no explanation as the entire liberated world is aware. This explains why the voice of the Arab nation is strong and victorious.

Syria has declared its stand with firmness and determination. The U.S. administration and the Zionist enemy must reconsider their calculations. The Camp David dream has become difficult to attain and all the projects of surrender and treason which As-Sadat attempted have fallen apart.

The Arab nation and its masses support Arab Syria with one voice because Syria, through President al-Asad's declaration, is the voice of the Arab nation and its conscience, rejecting all attempts to undermine Arab dignity. It is the conscience which exposed the aggressive, combative Zionist designs and clearly brought to the fore the Arab ability to confront and remain steadfast in the face of any attack or surrender.

23 May TISHRIN Comment

JN230906 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Al-Biqa' Missiles and the Pershing Missiles Between the Right of Might and the Might of Right" TISHRIN says: We are not concerned about how Begin, the Zionist enemy's prime minister, will extricate himself from the tight corner he has put his will and party in, he who has shown intransige ce and arrogance to an extent which blinded him from seeing objective facts and logic and he who has believed that he would be capable of imposing conditions, any conditions, on Syria and the Arab nation. We are not concerned about how he will extricate himself unless this affects the core of the principled Syrian stand which made President al-Asad send the missiles to Lebanon.

Begin may have the right to save face before his citizens in the manner he deems fit. He, however, has no right to reverse the facts concerning the Syrian stand, of which he is very well aware and which we suppose has been faithfully convyed by Philip Habib, the U.S. envoy.

The Syrian stand says that we have nothing to offer and that the issue is connected to Israel, the other party.

Begin exceeds his rights when he arrogantly boasts that Syria has agreed to his conditions in Lebanon. This makes it necessary to state that this is all illusion because Syria rejects even the discussion of such conditions. President al-Asad has clearly defined the elements of the Syrian stand and its just and legitimate bases.

How can it be logical on the political, military and strategic level that the Al-Biqa' and Sannin regions are a security zone for Israel, that Lebanon is a security zone for Israel, while Al-Biqa' and Sannin are not a security zone for Lebanon and part of the security zone for Syria and the Arab nation?

TISHRIN wonders: How can the airspace and territory that belong to others be part of Israel's security zone while they cannot be a security zone for these others? This is a new kind of colonialism. How can the United States accept and adopt such a logic? How can it accept this for Israel while it does not accept it for Syria and Lebanon? Especially if we take into consideration that Syrian military presence in Lebanon, represented in the Arab Deterrent Forces, is a presence which has been approved by the legitimate authorities, the Arab masses and the Arab nation?

If we try to apply this serious precedent to current international relations, then we can imagine what might be the future of these relations and that of the world.

If the United States, which is one of the big military powers, seeks to implement this formula in the world, then the entire world would be a security zone for the United States. How then can the United States justify the presence of its offensive nuclear missiles, which are deployed in Europe, under the pretext of protecting Europe itself? Why can Lebanon and Syria not be allowed to protect themselves in their own country against the Zionist arrogance, which is unprecedented since Hitler?

The paper says: As long as this Israeli logic on security continues to be practiced with such unlimited elasticity, what can prevent the Arab homeland from the ocean to the Gulf from becoming a security zone for Israel at a later stage, in which the Arabs will be forbidden to move, except in accordance with the requirements of Israeli security?

The core of the issue goes beyond the fabricated missile crisis. It is directly connected with the Zionist-imperialist strategy to subjugate the region and the Arab homeland, humiliating them and depriving them of their national will to adopt any decision.

The issue is connected with the feverish desire by the United States and Israel to teach Syria a lesson, remove it from the path of Camp David and make it possible for them to swallow the Arab homeland and bring it under their influence. This is the core of the problem. It is an old one which did not start with the missiles crisis but with the time Syria first rejected imperialist hegemony, the Camp David agreements or any settlement that would harm Palestinian people's rights.

Syria's decision is irrevocable and is not a subject for any bargaining because it embodies our nation's concern with protecting its national dignity and its determination to reject the Zionist and imperialist strategy. Syria rejects humiliation and subservience. Syria is not scared by the drums of war.

It will use all its defensive capabilities and the huge capabilities and potential of the Arab nation to defend its dignity and rights. The enemy will realize that Syria is a solid strategic wall and a country which is capable of making the Arabs raise their heads high. We shall defend ourselves well and in a manner they do not expect. The decision to carry out aggression perhaps has been made. As President al-Asad has reiterated, they must remember that the distance btween Israel, Lebanon and Syria is the same as the distance between Syria, Lebanon and Israel. [sentence as heard]

23 May Damascus Radio Comment

JN231358 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] All indications point to the fact that the Zionist enemy is harboring the intention of a comprehensive aggression against Syria. After its reconnaissance aircraft flew from Lebanese airspace into Syrian airspace on their aggressive flights, they began to increase their flights over Lebanon, and our air defenses downed two aircraft in Al-Biqa' yesterday.

All this is considered a clear indication of the enemy's intention to escalate its military operations against Syria and Lebanon and to push the whole situation toward an explosion. The rumors spread by the enemy prime minister that he would give a wide opportunity for diplomatic efforts are actually no more than a smokescreen for these aggressive intentions, perhaps even a smokescreen for the timing of the attack itself.

24 May TISHRIN Comment

JN240707 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 May 81

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN comments on the U.S. military concentrations near the region. The paper says: No one ignores that this U.S. military concentration in the Mediterranean has taken place in the wake of the failure of the Israeli threats to achieve something which is of no concern to us, as was announced. The failure of the Israeli threats and Menahem Begin's schemes to ignite war, schemes which he carried out as part of his prerogatives as prime minister and war minister, through a military action at this stage must be a lesson whose meanings are clear to those who wager on the soundness of the facts and the new changes in the situation.

The wise policy under His Excellency President al-Asad's leadership has further strengthened Syria's will, which does not accept maneuvers or bargaining.

TISHRIN adds: Syria possesses a deterring force that is capable of changing many things and foiling chimerical theories which have been fostered in the absence of Arab deterrence of the Israeli aggression in wake of the As-Sadat defeat, treason and fall into the quagmire of capitalation. One of the most salient factors of the new situation is that Syria possesses human, military and economic potentials that qualify it to wage a military confrontation against Israel.

Syria depends on its own strength and the courage and capability of its fighters who are waiting for the chance to prove their combat capability and their ability to use military technology which almost became an enemy monopoly, as he used to claim after each piracy he carried out in our Arab homeland.

What the enemy prime minister wants does not coincide with his claim that he wishes to solve this alleged crisis. As a matter of fact, he wants to exploit this crisis and to add new crises to it so as to carry out aggression. This is clear and obvious, not only in his demand that Syria withdraw it missiles from Lebanon, despite the legitimacy of their presence in their present positions, but also in his adding another demand. He wants to discuss the presence of Syrian missiles inside the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic and on its border with Lebanon. We do not know whether the enemy prime minister has other demands for dissolving the Syrian Arab army or evacuating the citizens of Al-Quantirah, Dar'a and Damascus governorates on the pretext of their claims to guarantee Israel's security.

The pretexts made by the enemy prime minister to commit aggression are unlimited and will not run out unless U.S. support for Israel ends. Since these pretexts still stand and continue, Syria has no choice but to confront the aggression.

President Hafiz al-Asad has declared that Syria would not take the initiative of waging an attack on Israel. Nevertheless, it will defend itself and its rights firmly and resolutely. For this purpose, it has prepared all the requirements of confrontation militarily, politically and economically. If the enemy makes claims and behaves according to the principle that what is freely permissible to it is prohibited to others and imagines that Syria will leave it alone under such circumstances, it is wrong. It is wrong in understanding Syria and its stand, in making out the dimensions of its steadfastness and confrontation and in estimating the size of the sacrifices which it offers to defend its dignity and that of the Arab nation.

Syria is not afraid of its enemies and their threats and does not allow them to blackmail it. It frankly and clearly declares that the positions of its missiles and soldiers will never be determined except by the supreme pan-Arab interest of the Arab nation. If the pan-Arab interest has imposed itself on the emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis and governed its important decisions, including the decision to offer the necessary support to Syria to repel aggression, this is because Syria is the spearhead in the struggle of the Arab nation, the pan-Arab consciousness of this nation and its living militant conscience. Syria will be as it always has been, the source of hope for the sons of the nation and their hope for liberation, regaining of rights and protection of pan-Arab dignity.

24 May Damascus Radio Comment

JN241445 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 May 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] Day after day, Syria's stand is enhanced. The high edifice built by Syria in the face of the Zionist belligerence to repel its presumptuous threats to pan-Arab security is becoming higher and firmer as time passes. Terrorist Begin predicted that things would develop in this way when he asserted a few weeks ago that time is not in Israel's side. Begin's prediction has been proven true. World public opinion, even in the imperialist countries, has understood Syria's legitimate right to defend itself against the barbaric Israeli military operations, therefore, Begin's expectation came true.

Moreover, world public opinion's understanding of Syria's stand has, in the countries of the socialist bloc, turned into support, the effectiveness of which Begin may well be aware, especially when Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev yesterday condemned Zionist intervention in Lebanon's domestic affairs and Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people.

We admit to Begin that his prediction that time is not in Israel's favor is correct. We will also admit to Begin the correctness of his prediction should he allow this period, which is not in favor of Israeli aggression, to continue; and we say that this prediction will hold true for the future as well.

The group of objective facts which Syria has firmly established have been strengthened, and what has taken place will not be reversed. It will be of no use to Begin to prolong the respite that he is giving to U.S. diplomacy to remove what he determined he was incapable of removing by other than diplomatic means.

Moreover, Begin will not reap any benefits from making a great deal of noise about the progress being achieved by U.S. diplomacy here and there. Begin will also not reap any benefits from the coordination attributed to amorphous circles in Israel and the United States-coordination which speaks of an imminent Syrian yielding to the rude Israeli demands and which speaks of successful pressure against Syria to abandon its nationalist decision.

It will also be of no use to Begin for his media to refer to the decisions of the Arab League council as having been expected, that is, to consider them as nonbinding. It is not true that Syria will abandon its national decision; nor is it true that Syria will give in to the will of the Arab nation's enemy. Begin's only correct prediction was that time is not in favor of Israel, and neither is the future. What has taken place is irreversible, and Syria has no choice but ever escalating confrontation of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the entire Arab nation.

It may be assumed that Begin is aware of the full support of this condemnation because it coincided with a portentous remark by Chairman Brezhnev that any Zionist carelessness at this time in the Middle East could spark a war, the scope of which cannot be foreseen. Hence, Begin's expectation that time is not on Israel's side is absolutely correct. It is also correct because the joint U.S.-Israeli wager on attacking Syria and the Palestinian resistance in isolation has failed, particularly after the Arab national resurgence, spread in the Arab arena by Syria's stand, resulted in the crystallization of a collective Arab stand opposed to the United States. This collective Arab stand was included in the statement issued by the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis.

The statement affirmed that the Arabs support Syria in its confrontation by Zionist aggression and its provocations. The statement included an Arab decision to offer the necessary aid to Syria to repulse aggression and to put all resources at Syria's disposal in the battle, including the participation of the Arab armed forces, in accordance with the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab defense pact. This last decision has a distinctive connotation. It signifies renewed Arab rejection of the course followed by As-Sadat within the Camp David framework. This proves the correctness of Begin's expectation that time is not on Israel's side.

In clear text, the statement of the Arab League council openly called on the United States to stop its support for Israel and stated that U.S. support for Israel will lead to an Arab-U.S. confrontation. This is a collective Arab rejection of General Haig's call to divert attention from the impending Zionist danger and to deal with an illusory, imaginary danger--the alleged Soviet threat.

This is another good reason for saying that Begin's prediction that time is not on Israel's side is correct.

The best and conclusive reason for admitting the correctness of Begin's prediction that time is on Syria's side is that Syria, which is backed by large-scale international understanding and is armed with active Soviet support and Arab national resurgence, has established a group of objective facts, which Begin may have noted for their harmony and future role in coming confrontations with Zionist militarism. He may have noted these facts during the reconnaissance operations, particularly the unsuccessful operations in which Syria downed five Israeli reconnaassance planes within 10 days.

25 May TISHRIN Comment

JN250719 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Warning Against Stupidity," TISHRIN comments on Israeli-Phalangist collusion.

The paper says: Terrorist Menahem Begin has shown that he was upset at the leak about the joint defense pact that has been concluded between him and his isolationist agents in Lebanon. The leaking of the news about the existence of the joint defense pact by the Knesset Foreign Relations and Security Committee is not really what upset Begin. Israeli-Phalangist collusion, Israeli support for the Phalangist party in Lebanon and Israel's role in what is taking place in the Lebanese arena, Beirut and Zahlah, are matters which are well-known and are no secret. TISHRIN explains that Begin's statement was made to reveal the secrets and to confirm Israel's role in Lebanon. Begin wants to imply that Israel has allies in Lebanon and that its intervention in Lebanon, from the beginning of the conspiracy against it up to the present, has not been a foreign intervention into the domestic affairs of an independent country but an intervention which has taken place and continues to take place in accordance with agreements with Lebanese parties.

TISHRIN adds: If we take into consideration the fact that Israel is currently besieged and is the target of accusations concerning its illegitimate intervention into Lebanon's domestic affairs and its recurrent aggression against southern Lebanon and Lebanese airspace, even within the framework of Envoy Habib's mission, then we realize that the purpose of Begin's statement is not to protest the leak of these secrets but to publicize them and have them appear as fact in an attempt to break the siege and justify all or part of Israel's role against Lebanon and the conspiracies it is concocting against Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and territory. In his statement, Begin wanted to say that the allegation that Israel is violating Lebanon's territory and airspace is not true because it is doing so in accordance to agreements with Lebanese parties. Begin also wanted to say that Israel is only carrying out the mission of protecting the Christians in conformity with a prior agreement with the issuance of the statement at this particular stage, at a time when Israel is being isolated and suffering from an international siege imposed on its by the realities of the situation and its developments, and the firmness of the Syrian stand, its logic and legitimacy, is the beginning of the open alliance that has existed [in reality] between Israel and the Phalangists for a long time. This declaration will be an introduction to the Israeli decision, which has not been made yet or, which has been made, but has so far not bee implemented.

The paper explains that the United States, which knows much about this alliance and which has protected and defended it in international forums to prevent its being condemned or merely denounced, will find in Begin's statement a substance that will nurture the U.S. political chicanery, which it is practicing through Habib's mission, Haig's statements and its military moves in the Mediterranean and the region. The issuance of the statement on the Israeli-Phalangist alliance on the same day that Israel had announced that it would decide the appropriate time to end Habib's mission means only one thing; that the statement is part of the Israeli decision. More clearly, Begin's statement is an introduction to the Israeli decision on what will take place after the Habib mission and it is only natural that this decision is made with U.S. approval.

The paper stresses that, regardless of what Begin's decision might be, it will not be outside the framework of the Syrian calculations concerning any eventuality. From the beginning, Damascus has announced its readiness to face any eventuality, regardless of cost, because the issue goes beyond that of the missiles. It concerns the core of the Arab cause, the Arab nation's dignity and the future of the area. Syria will not allow Israel, at any time, to impose its hegemony over the area or to continue its conspiracies against Lebanon. Begin's decision, which most certainly will not be made behind Washington's back, will be a decision that affects the security and peace of the entire world.

Washington and Israel, who are very well aware that Syria will not retract its legitimate, just and logical stand, which is fully supported by all the Arabs and their friends, will push the area and the world into a war whose consequences no one can predict.

President al-Asad has repeatedly warned the United States and Israel about committing such a stupidity, stressing that Syria will not seek confrontation and does not want it. Syria also does not wish confrontation between the big powers to take place. Syria is only exercising a natural and legitimate right which Washington has not been able to ignore even when it tries to harm this right or bypass it to serve Israel's greed for expansion and its policy of provocation.

26 May Editorial Comment

JN260818 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 May 81

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Strong Syria Is the Symbol of Confrontation and Bastion of Steadfastness," ATH-THAWRAH says editorially: Those who think that they can, through pressure, military provocations and threats to resort to armed aggression, change Syria's stands or affect its pan-Arab commitments and struggle stance are mistaken. They only demonstrate real ignorance of our people's strength, firmness and complete readiness to make unlimited sacricies for the sake of the victory of the free national and pan-Arab will embodied in Syria's courageous stand and decisions.

They are also mistaken when they think that they can, through conspiracies and pressure, weaken this country. They do not know that our people's confrontation of the conspiracies and agents has made them even more determined to uphold their principles and the objectives of their struggle. All this is expressed these days in the solid front formed by our masses behind the leadership of President al-Asad and our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, as well as the Progressive National Front. The significant upshot of the recent developments in the area is that Syria's firm and strong stand is backed by all the Arabs and world public opinion and that Syria, which is strong with its people and the Arab masses around it, has also gained the support of world public opinion and the forces of freedom and progress in the world.

Adhering to its principles and the objectives of its struggle, Syria will continue to reject any pressure and threats and will get ready to face any aggression at any time. This fact, which has become the talk of the whole world and a source of pride for our masses throughout the Arab world, is an important turning point in the confrontation against the Zionist enemy and the forces backing him. Syria's stand presents a honorable picture of the type of Arab struggle aspired for by the masses as the course to their future.

Through its steadfastness, courageous decisions and firm resistance to the Zionist enemy, Syria has carried out the required Arab action ahd has categorically asserted that there can be no going back on facing the Zionist enemy and waging the battle in defense of the Arab nation and its honor and dignity and for the restoration of Arab territory and rights. By defending the Lebanese and Palestinian masses, preventing the enemy air force from violating Arab airspace unchecked and dealing fatal blows to this air force, Syria has given the material and tangible proof that it is determined to face and deter the aggression regardless of the sacrifices. This is Syria's chosen fate and this is the masses' path to the future--fighting to foil the capitulation conspiracy and also facing the aggression and preparing for the liberation battle. This is an historic task which we are honorably assuming in the most critical phase in the history of the Arab cause and Arab struggle.

Commenting in its "Behind the News" column under the headline "The Best That the Arabs Have Said and Done," TISHRIN says: Syria has triumphed politically and Israel has failed to achieve a political or military victory in the crisis with Syria which it faked and which the West calls the Syrian missile crisis in Lebanon. These are the conclusions of political and media circles in Eastern and Western Europe.

It can be said that never before has one Arab country or a group of Arab countries achieved the sympathy which the Syrian stand is now enjoying in the crisis faked by Israel, pushing the area to the brink of conflagration with all its potential dangers to international relations and the cause of world peace and security. Furthermore, never before has Israel been so isolated in its stand as it is now by West European public opinion circles, which in the past sympathized with Israel and accepted its claims about the threats and danger to its existence. Even those circles, which are known for their close ties to and sympathy for Zionism, now find it very difficult to defend the Begin government's stand and threats to peace.

Political circles in West European capitals have not concealed their great concern that Begin's recklessness and adventurism might plunge the Middle East into war, thereby affecting West European interests. Therefore, the governments of Western Europe, especially West Germany and France, have not adopted a negative stand with regard to Israel's threats; rather, they have opposed the sparking of a conflict that might jeopardize their oil imports or increase oil prices, as was the case in 1973, especially now when Western Europe is going through an economic recession which has increased the number of unemployed and the value of the U.S. dollar against the European currencies and has aggravated social struggle. Furthermore, Western Europe is facing political difficulties, as reflected by the results of the recent elections in France and West Berlin and by the mounting opposition to U.S. policy and the deployment of nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The idea of war is unacceptable to Western Europe. This European viewpoint has been clearly expressed to Washington. Begin is also strongly criticized in West European political circles, especially after his violent and provocative criticism of the policies pursued by West Germany and France and his personal attack on the leaders of both countries.

The impression formed by political and media circles in Eastern and Western Europe is that the crisis faked by Begin had electoral and strategic motives linked with U.S. attempts to get rid of Syrian resistance to U.S. policy in the region. Politicians and newsmen in Eastern and Western Europe concede that Syria's handling of the confrontation battle against the Israeli threats has been clever and successful. Syria has been careful not to fall into the traps set by its enemies. They also say that President Hafiz al-Asad is the first Arab leader to be able, with great cleverness, to combine political action with principled firmness, thus enabling him to inflict the first big political and moral defeat on Israel and to present before world public opinion a true picture of the conflict in the area--the picture of an aggressive and warmongering Israel and the picture of the Arabs who are defending their territory and rights. The European media have described President Hafiz al-Asad's statements to the U.S. television networks as the best that Arabs have said since the beginning of their conflict with Israel, coming at a time when the Syrian forces are also doing the best that the Arabs have done by shooting down Israeli planes violating other people's airspace.

BEGIN SAYS HE IS READY FOR LEBANON PEACE TREATY

TA251817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin this evening said he would be ready to leave for Beirut within 24 hours or welcome Lebanese president Ilyas Sarkis in Jerusalem to sign a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel. Speaking before students at Migdal Ha'emeq, Mr Begin pledged that the problem of the Syrian missiles in Lebanon would be resolved; but he called on his audience to be patient. He promised that one day the Syrians would have to leave Lebanon and pull out the missiles and that the existence of the Christians would be guaranteed, both in the south and in the north of Lebanon, and Israeli planes would fly over Lebanon's skies freely.

The prime minister noted that 11 Syrian planes have fallen in Lebanon to date. He noted that for a year there had been no terrorist infiltrations into Israel's territory except for attempts, which he described as childish, to infiltrate Israel aboard a balloon and gliders.

Mr Begin again attacked West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt for conducting a propaganda campaign in favor of a Palestinian state while it was not clear what he had precisely done on the eastern front during World War II. Mr Begin expressed his regret about the teachers strike and said that physicians, security workers and teachers should not strike.

IDF RADIO: DRONE SHOT DOWN BY SYRIAN MISSILES

TA251537 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] A pilotless plane was downed today over the Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon by Syrian missiles. Our military correspondent Sha'ul Stav is here in the studio with us:

The drone, a pilotless plane, was on a patrol mission described as routine over the Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon. It was downed at noon by shots from missiles fired from a Syrian battery sited inside Syrian territory, near the border with Lebanon. This is the third pilotless plane downed in less than 2 weeks from Syrian territory by missile fire. Each time the missiles were fired from within Syria and each time the patrol flight was over the Al-Biqa' region.

People in Israel are saying that the downing of Israeli planes by missiles fired from Syrian territory proves that the positioning of surface-to-air missiles near the border, and not only the positioning of the batteries inside Lebanon itself, is jeopardizing Israel's freedom of aerial activity. It should be emphasized, however, that since the outbreak of the tension in Lebanon, the Syrians have fired at least 17 SAM missiles. The Syrians are nervous, Israel sources explain. At any rate, it is important to stress that Israel's patrol flights over the Al-Biqa' region have continued, depite the Syrians' repeated firing and despite the downing of the drones.

BEGIN: SOVIET ADVISERS ATTACHED TO SYRIAN UNITS

TA250506 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] The prime minister says that Soviet advisers are attached to the Syrian units stationed in Lebanon. This is the first time that Menahem Begin has publicly announced direct Soviet involvement in Syrian activities in Lebanon. Foreign correspondents in Tel Aviv reported that the prime minister made this public in a speech he delivered at the convention of the contractors center.

More on Begin Remarks

TA250625 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 25 May 81

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Yesterday Menahem Begin accused the Soviet Union of direct involvement in the Lebanese crisis. Begin said that Soviet advisers are attached to the Syrian forces in Lebanon. Our political correspondent Gad Becker has learned from sources in the prime minister's office that the Soviet advisors probably came along with the entry of large-scale Syrian forces into Lebanon. The prime minister emphasized in his remarks that Israel has a great deal of patience regarding the dispute with Syria. He also dwelled on the identity of Israeli and U.S. positions regarding the missile crisis.

[Begin Begin recording] Now I would like you to know that on this matter we again have full agreement with the United States. This is one of our greatest political achievements. What did we agree upon? I received a letter from the central personality in the United States [President Reagan] where he writes to me clearly: The status quo ante should be restored. What is important is that the meaning of these Latin words--status quo ante--is precisely our meaning.

I would like to assure you that nothing will help the Syrians. Things will take a little while, but no matter. I was asked by one journalist after the Cabinet meeting today whether we had not lost our patience. I told him that on this matter of losing patience he will have to wait for a very long time. [end recording]

'Sources' on Soviet Advisers

TA251624 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] Soviet advisers are present with the Syrian missile batteries in Lebanon. However, it is unknown whether this is what authoritative sources in Israel are saying today. Despite this, these sources stress, the entry of the Soviet advisers should not be regarded as a new trend actually proving activity by the Soviet Union in Lebanon. Our military correspondent Sha'ul Stav reports:

It is not certain that Soviet advisers are staying permanently with Syrian units in Lebanon, but there are signs indicating that over the last few days there have indeed been Soviet advisers present at the Syrian missile batteries that have been stationed across the border. This is what is being said today by authoritative sources in Israel. As I said, we do not know whether this is a permanent presence or merely a visit the Soviets have made to the area. At any rate, the missile batteries positioned inside Lebanon, are an innovation of the last few days.

Sources in Israel say the entry of Soviet advisers into Lebanon should not be regarded as a decision by the Kremlin to intervene actively. It would be more precise to regard this development as a direct continuation of the Soviet presence in other Syrian Army units. About 5,000 advisers and technicians from the Soviet Union are permanently stationed in Syria. They are spread out through all branches of the Syrian Army and are mainly involved in operational and organizational matters and the training of Syrian Army personnel in the maintenance and use of modern weapon systems.

Senior military sources have estimated that the Soviets are also supporting the increased Libyan involvement in Lebanon. It is reasonable to assume, they say, that the transfer of the SA-9 missiles from Libya to the terrorists was done with the agreement of the Russians. It should be recalled that these missiles are among the most modern of the surface-to-air missiles the Soviet Union is producing. The issue of Libyan aid to the Syrians and the terrorists was also raised during Libyan ruler Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Moscow at the end of last month.

Jerusalem POST Report

TA250802 Jerusalem POST in English 25 May 81 pp 1, 2

[Jeffrey Heller Report: "Russian Advisers in Lebanon--Begin"]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv--Prime Minister Menahem Begin said last night Soviet military advisers are serving with the Syrian troops in Lebanon.

Begin told the 32nd convention of the federation of building contractors, in an almost offhand comment, that Soviet advisers were part of the deadly array of Soviet weaponry facing Christian forces in Lebanon.

Begin said the Christians have told Israel: "We are ready to hold out, to fight bravely and set an example, but our civilian population cannot hold on, they are bombarded, shot at. The Syrians have the T-72 tank, the largest in the world, that can swallow any American tank made... in total the Syrians have 3,600 tanks concentrated with Soviet advisers who go with Syrian units into Lebanon," Begin said.

Israeli officials have never before said the Soviets maintain a military presence in Lebanon.

TASS Denial

For TASS commentator Georgiy Kuvaldin's 25 May denial of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's allegation that Soviet advisers are stationed in Lebanon, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 26 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

HABIB, BEGIN MEET; CABINET TO DISCUSS MISSION

TA231712 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 May 81

[Excerpts] U.S. Envoy Philip Habib is currently meeting with Menahem Begin at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. Sources at the prime minister's office have said that this is a courtesy talk and does not contain a political character.

Tomorrow the cabinet will discuss Philip Habib's mission. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer believes that the Cabinet will determine a reasonable time for the completion of the mission. Political sources in Jerusalem have said that the future of Habib's mission will apparently be determined this week.

In one of his talks with Habib, Menahem Begin made it plain that Israel had made a real concession when it did not react to the movement of Syrian forces near the Lebanese border. Political circles in Jerusalem have said that Israel is not ready to wait for 1 full year for the removal of the missiles from the Al-Biqa' valley and the removal of the Syrian units from the Sannin heights. These circles added that Israel is willing to wait for some time but not for 1 year, as suggested by the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunis.

Western sources told our correspondent that Philip Habib will confer with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at the beginning of next week, according to a predetermined schedule.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON HABIB MISSION, LATEST MEETING

TA241945 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] U.S. mediator Philip Habib is now waiting for information from Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, before he continues his shuttle trip.

Our political correspondent comments that the United States today relies upon Saudi Arabia as its main support for attempts to find a peaceful solution to the missile crisis. Rif'at al-Asad, the Syrian president's brother, is in Riyadh and a solution to the crisis is dependent to no small degree on the agreements he obtains from the rulers of Saudi Arabia.

Our political correspondent says that the government has not set any restriction on the length of time it is prepared to wait, but there is no doubt that if, within a week, Philip Habib is unable to indicate any progress, Israel's period of waiting will come to an end. However, ministers said today that they had not despaired of finding a solution and that even the prime minister had sounded optimistic about the chance of the talks succeeding. At the end of the cabinet session Mr Begin replied to questions:

[Begin videotape] [Begin] This morning reports were published that there were some new ideas. I regret that I cannot confirm this. It is true that there has been some sort of a proposal, made in Beirut, but it does not change the situation regarding the problems of the missiles, Zahlah, or the Sannin heights at all. I cannot announce that report today, but it is really not decisive and so, for the moment, it can be passed over. If something new turns up, I will inform you. What has been agreed--that is the main point--last night, between Mr Habib and myself, is that we are continuing with the political-diplomatic process and Mr Habib is, in fact, waiting for information from Riyadh, from Saudi Arabia. He may receive it this evening, or maybe tomorrow, and then I will know about it. Today I do not know anything, as simple as that, and, as I said before, either tomorrow morning or even tonight, I will be in Tel Aviv and I will receive information, so you will be able to see me again tomorrow and ask me if I have received any information and, if I have, if I can tell you about it. But, for the moment, everything is as it was. We are continuing with the diplomatic effort. I think that Jerusalem is a beautiful city, nobody is shooting in it, nobody is shelling, neither Christians, Jews nor Muslims and one can live here, in Jerusalem. We wish Mr Habib all the best for the continuation of his efforts, which are really very serious, in the diplomatic sphere, because I repeat: We do not want war. We would like, and we are aiming at this, this problem to be solved politically.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, will the diplomatic efforts still continue without any time limitation?

[Begin] We have not mentioned any time limitation. When we reach the conclusion that, in fact, it has been proved to everyone that these efforts are in vain, we will say so. [end videotape]

This evening Philip Habib met for a 2-hour talk with former Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman. The talk was held in Weizman's home in Caesaria and the chances of solving the crisis by diplomatic means were discussed.

POST ON CONTINUATION OF HABIB PEACE MISSION

TA240813 Jerusalem POST in English 24 May 81 pp1, 2

[Report by David Landau, David Bernstein and press agencies: "Israel Losing Patience Over Habib Mission"]

[Excerpt] Israel signalled with renewed urgency last night that there is not much more time to resolve the Lebanon missile crisis by diplomatic means. "If (U.S. Envoy) Philip Habib goes to Damascus and comes back empty-handed again it will be much harder for Israel to give him another time extension," a well-placed source said in Jerusalem.

"There must be some limit to the exploitation of our goodwill and we are fast approaching that limit," the source said.

By "exploitation" he was referring to military actions in Lebanon by the PLO, the Syrians and the Libyans during recent days which are plainly worrying Israeli policymakers.

"If there were at least a freeze on military movements during Habib's mission," the source explained, Israel could afford to be more patient. But the events on the ground were leading policymakers here to conclude that the longer the crisis--and the so-far fruitless mediation effort--continues, the more damage is done to Israel's military posture in the event of a clash of arms.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin is likely to make this very point at the weekly Cabinet meeting this morning, it is understood. Apparently he wants the ministers to adopt a decision which, while not setting down a precise deadline, will nevertheless make it clear that Israel's patience is running out.

Begin met with Habib at his home last evening, after the envoy had returned from a day trip to Beirut. They spoke for just over an hour, and Habib emerged to give waiting newsmen his invariable one-sentence comment: "The diplomatic effort is continuing."

A spokesman for the prime minister said that the meeting had not been a working session but rather "a chat over tea." Begin would certainly not have held a working session with Habib before the termination of the sabbath, the spokesman said.

The premier had known on Thursday of Habib's intention to visit Beirut and return to Jerusalem on Saturday afternoon--and had invited him and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis for tea. Habib's talks in Beirut, it is understood, concerned the role he envisages for the Christian militias in a hoped-for-general pacification of the Zahlah area in east Lebanon.

Israeli sources [were not] surprised that Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad would not want to confer with the American envoy before he had received and fully digested the resolutions and behind-the-scenes decisions of the Arab League foreign ministers conference in Tunis.

PROPOSAL FOR NEW LEBANESE GOVERNMENT REPORTED

TA241407 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 May 81

[Excerpt] Our political correspondent has learned that one of the proposals now being discussed during Habib's trip is to establish a new government in Lebanon, which would provide suitable representation for all sections of the population.

HABIB MISSION DISCUSSED AT 24 MAY CABINET SESSION

TA241310 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] At the end of the Cabinet meeting the prime minister announced that the diplomatic efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis will continue. Mr Begin said that in his talks with Habib the issue of limiting Habib's mission was not discussed. When we reach the conclusion that his efforts have borne no fruit, we will say so, the prime minister stated.

The prime minister disclosed that the U.S. envoy will now wait in Israel for answers from Riyadh to certain issues and will later decide on his future moves. Habib brought several proposals from Beirut but, in the prime minister's opinion, they do not substantively change the situation and the problem remains unchanged. The prime minister emphasized that Habib does not intend to solve the entire Lebanese problem but only the missile crisis and the problems arising regarding the Sannin Mountain and Zahlah.

On the downing of the Israeli pilotless plane Menahem Begin noted that this exemplifies the danger inherent in the concentration of Syrian missiles in Lebanon.

Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer notes that the Cabinet rejected Shim'on Peres' proposal to set up a joint opposition-coalition team to discuss the Lebanese crisis. The Cabinet says that it will continue to handle affairs of state but the prime minister will hold consultations with the opposition leader and with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Cabinet Rejects Alignment Proposal

TA241633 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1555 GMT 24 May 81

[Government Press Office communique]

[Text] Jerusalem, 24 May--At the Cabinet's weekly session today:

A. The cabinet heard a report from the prime minister and the defense minister, from the chief of staff and from the chief of the IDF Intelligence Branch on the situation in Lebanon.

The debate on this topic was held in the Cabinet's capacity as Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs.

B. The Cabinet decided to issue the following announcement:

Alignment Chairman Mr Peres, has proposed to the prime minister, through the television medium, that a joint government-Alignment leadership body to make political and military decisions be established.

That is not the right way.

The Cabinet discussed Mr Peres' proposal thoroughly. The Cabinet decided not to accept it. State affairs are being conducted by the democratically elected government. With all due respect, the opposition has a different role to play.

The [Knesset] Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee exists to discuss defense issues. In addition, regarding the problem of Lebanon, there is a limited subcommittee in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee [to deal with this issue]. This subcommittee can be reinforced with new members in accordance with the decision of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The Government of Israel will continue to conduct the affairs of the nation according to the mandate it received from the people.

The prime minister will continue to hold consultations with the leader of the opposition and with the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on matters pertaining to policy and security.

HA'ARETZ: BEGIN PROMISES TO AID AL-JUMAYYIL

TA240638 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 May 81 p 1

[Parliamentary correspondent Dan Margalit report: "Begin Gave a Written Commitment to Bashir al-Jumayyil To Act Against Syrian Aircraft"]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin gave a letter to the Christian leader in northern Lebanon, Bashir al-Jumayyil, promising that the air force will intervene on behalf of Al-Jumayyil's fighters if they are attacked by Syrian Air Force units. Al-Jumayyil showed this letter to friendly elements.

The intention to make a written commitment was known to some of the government elements only after it was actually given to Al-Jumayyil. It aroused a great deal of surprise.

A while ago information on this was apparently also transmitted to certain opposition leaders who undertook not to make it public.

The written commitment aroused astonishment in various circles which claimed it was unnecessary and constituted a grave deviation from Israeli policy in Lebanon, which had thus far been to aid the Christians in defending themselves. The prime minister contended in various debates that the commitment is compatible with the government policy that remains unchanged. The only change, according to the prime minister, is that the Syrians have intensified their attacks on the Christians.

An informed source claimed last night that the commitment was given after the downing of the two Syrian helicopters in the Mount Sannin area. Another source claimed that it was made earlier. It was impossible to learn yesterday when the prime minister actually gave the written commitment to the Christian leader.

Denial of Report on Letter

TA240521 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] A source in the prime minister's office this morning totally denied the report according to which Prime Minister Begin deposited a letter in the hands of the Christian leader in northern Lebanon, Bashir al-Jumayyil, promising that the air force will intervene on behalf of Al-Jumayyil's fighters if they are attacked by Syrian Air Force units. This source told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that Prime Minister Begin stated this openly and clearly in public interviews in which he reiterated Israel's promise to aid the Christians if they are attacked by the Syrian Air Force. This is what Israel has indeed done when it shot down the helicopters that attacked the Christians in the Lebanese mountains.

Knesset Members Confirm Report

TA240615 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] Members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning confirmed to our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer the report published in HA'ARETZ this morning regarding the commitment made to the Christian leader in northern Lebanon. These members said that Prime Minister Begin said in one of the recent meetings of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that he had given a letter to Christian leader Bashir al-Jumayyil promising that the air force will intervene on behalf of the Christian combatants if they are attacked by the Syrian Air Force units. Earlier a source in the prime minister's office had denied this report saying that such a letter does not exist and that the prime minister had in fact made a public commitment in spirit.

Begin's Office Repeats Denial

TA240719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] It is again emphasized in the prime minister's office this morning that the prime minister did not give any letter of commitment to the Christian leader in northern Lebanon, Bashir al-Jumayyil. This was published in a HA'ARETZ report this morning, according to which Prime Minister Begin had given Al-Jumayyil a letter promising that the Israeli Air Force will intervene on behalf of Al-Jumayyil's men if they are attacked by Syrian Air Force units.

This morning members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee claimed that in a recent meeting of the committee Begin said he had deposited such a letter in Al-Jumayyil's hands. As said, this is denied by the prime minister's office. However, it is noted by the prime minister's office that Mr Begin has more than once announced in public interviews that Israel sees itself committed also to the Christians in northern Lebanon.

Office Clarifies Commitment

TA240826 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] It was disclosed by the prime minister's office this morning that at the beginning of last month the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs decided to send an announcement to the Christian leadership in northern Lebanon repeating a commitment made to them in December 1979 that Israel will operate its air force in their defense if they are attacked by the Syrian Air Force. This is reported by our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer. The announcement by the prime minister' s office follows a report published in HA'ARETZ this morning in which Begin is said to have sent a letter to the Christian leader in northern Lebanon, Bashir al-Jumayyil, on this issue.

Official Announcement

TA240924 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0910 GMT 24 May 81

[Government Press Office release on Begin's alleged written commitment to Al-Jumayyil]

[Text] The following announcement was made by the prime minister's office:

A. In the meeting held in August 1978 between an Israeli delegation and a delegation of Lebanese Christians, the Christians explained they would have no means of defense against the Syrian Air Force if they were attacked by it. In a consultation among the Cabinet members present at the meeting, including former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and the chief of staff, it was unanimously agreed that the prime minister would inform the Christians' representatives that in view of this special problem Israel would operate its air force in the Christians' defense if they were attacked by the Syrian Air Force.

B. On 8 April 1981, when the Syrians conducted a slaughter of the Christians in Zahlah and Beirut, the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs decided to send an announcement to the Christian leadership in northern Lebanon, including, among other things, a verbatim reiteration of the promise given them in August 1978.

C. There are grounds to assume that the distorted leak about the "written commitment" to the Christians emanated from the circles of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Under these circumstances it is the prime minister's duty to consider whether he will in future be able to hand to this committee secret information which can decide lives, among other things, and which immediately becomes public possession both in Israel and outside it, including enemy countries.

BEGIN RECEIVES AS-SADAT MESSAGE ON LEBANON

TA221537 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 May 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has received a message from President as-Sadat on the situation in Lebanon. After conveying the message, Egyptian Ambassador Sa'd Murtada told our correspondent David Essing that the message was friendly and that Egypt was still optimistic about the success of Philip Habib's mission. The Egyptian diplomat refused to disclose the contents of the Egyptian president's message but referred to previous Egyptian announcements that all parties should show restraint and avoid making rash decisions. The ambassador emphasized that under the atmosphere currently prevailing in the area, the Camp David accords and the peace between Israel and Egypt were the only solid fact.

Replying to a question, Ambassador Murtada said he had not discussed with the prime minister the criticism Begin had levelled against Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali.

Begin's remarks were certainly not approved of in Egypt. However, Murtata realized that the prime minister had a political reason for uttering them. Murtada added that Egypt had conveyed its reaction through diplomatic channels.

Begin Replies to Message

TA261213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 May 81

[Text] The prime minister this morning sent a reply to Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's letter, which he received last week. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reported that, in his message, Menahem Begin wrote that Israel will make every possible effort to solve the crisis with the Syrians in Lebanon through peaceful means.

MA'ARIV on Messages

TA251043 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 May 81 p 2

[Yosef Harif report: "As-Sadat to Begin: I Sympathize With Israel's Line in the Missile Affair"]

[Excerpt] In the Middle East, where nothing is stable or certain, there is only one guaranteed, sure thing--that is, the peace between Israel and Egypt and the Camp David accord, on which this peace is founded. This is what Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat wrote in his message to Prime Minister Menahem Begin. The entire message, covering a page and a half, focuses on the Lebanese missile crisis.

President as-Sadat ended his letter in a passage describing himself as "a friend, in front of whose eyes stands the peace between Israel and the Arab nation." As such, he also wishes to propose that the prime minister not resort to a military operation against Syria, because such an action might constitute a glorious achievement for Israel in the military sense, but it will simultaneously, according to the Egyptian president, also be merely a temporary achievement, whereas in the long run it will not be worthwhile.

Another evaluation of the president, which found expression in his message, is that a war against Syria would lead to the unification of the Arab world around it, which would be very undesirable. This, in his opinion, is another reason for Israel to make every possible effort to prevent war.

The message Prime Minister Menahem Begin sent last week to President as-Sadat already contains a promise to the Egyptian president that Israel will make every effort to prevent a war with Syria over the missile crisis, even though it will have to defend its vital interests.

In another part of his message, President as-Sadat noted that even if Israel undertakes a military operation to destroy the missiles, such a move should not be regarded as final because, in addition to the fact that the Syrian opposition to Israel will unite Arab countries in support for it, this might also provide a pretext for the Soviet Union to strengthen its footholds. It is for all these reasons that as-Sadat sympathizes with the line the Israeli Government has so far taken, namely, making a tireless effort to exhaust the political process. In this context, the Egyptian president said that he supports Mr Begin.

The Egyptian message is basically described as very friendly, as beyond the comments and the substantive remarks--which are basically acceptable to Israel--the Egyptian president pledges that his country will adhere to the peace agreements with Israel and will fulfill all its commitments as per the Camp David accord. Observers have noted that President as-Sadat thus wished to calm Israel against the backdrop of the various remarks that emanated from administration officials in Egypt. These remarks could have given the impression that if, after the political process in the missile crisis has been exhausted, Israel should need to resort to a military option, this might lead to the undermining of its relations with Egypt.

MA'ARIV INTERVIEWS EGYPT'S MUBARAK ON LEBANON

TA251224 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 May 81 pp 1, 15

[Cairo envoy 'Oded Granot report on interview with Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak--his first with an Israeli correspondent--in Cairo, on 24 May: "The Solution in Lebanon: The Retreat of the Syrian Forces"]

[Text] In a special interview with MA'ARIV, the first he has granted to an Israeli reporter, Egyptian Vice President Mr Husni Mubarak yesterday clarified Egypt's stand toward the missile crisis in Lebanon: "Right now we are not ready to have anyone force us into a war along with any party. We will not serve as a tool for any element to play with for the sake of causing problems with Israel."

The following are the main points the vice president and former commander of the Egyptian Air Force made on various issues:

--The Lebanese problem will only be solved when the Syrian forces retreat from there. Their presence in Lebanon will not help solve the problem; only the presence of international or pan-Arab forces might be able to do so. What is happening in Lebanon is an action "of settling accounts."

--I am not satisfied with the speed of supply of U.S. arms to Egypt. In order for you not to misconstrue my remark, let me add at once: As far as Israel is concerned--we have peace in the full sense of the word, we need the arms for other purposes. The Soviets have established a huge arms arsenal in Libya, in quantities surpassing by far Libya's absorption capacity. There is a Soviet plan to act in Africa, to try something against Sudan. It is easier to do this from Libya than from Moscow.

--I believe the Soviets are also pulling strings behind Al-Asad in Lebanon. He cannot do a thing without them.

--Al-Asad paid a secret visit to the Soviet Union, accompanied by his defense minister. It is very easy to reach the Soviet Union from Damascus, aboard a Soviet plane. I do not know precisely what it is he went for, but it has to do with the Lebanese crisis.

--You want to speed up normalization, to do it all in 1 day. Let things take their natural course.

--The purpose of the commotion you raised around the supply of "AWACS" aircraft to Saudi Arabia was to receive something from the United States. Then everything will peter out.

--We supplied Iraq with arms because it helped us during the October war. When they approached us in times of distress, despite everything that happened between us (the severance of relations and the continued attacks over radio Iraq), we complied.

--We have no contacts with Yasir 'Arafat, but he periodically sends us oral messages through a third party.

--The autonomy problem should be solved expeditiously. Thus, we will all be free to solve the danger of the Soviet threat.

On the peace agreement with Israel, he said:

"We are progressing on the road of peace without even the slightest hesitation. We will not change what we agreed upon. We signed a treaty and we will not back out of it. Only the future will prove that with us there are no doubts."

He promised unequivocally that even after the Israeli pullback from the Sinai is completed in April 1982, Egypt will not turn around and harm the fabric of its relations with Israel.

In nearly 2 hours, General Mubarak (who currently fills the post of president as well, until As-Sadat returns from Sudan) laid down his credo regarding the relations with Israel, normalization, autonomy, the missile crisis in Lebanon, the U.S. arms supplies to Egypt, the Soviet expansionist plans for Africa, U.S. aid to Iraq [as published] and many other topics.

When I presented to the Egyptian vice president the fears in Israel of a possible change in Egypt's policy toward Israel (even up to the severing of the diplomatic ties in the eventuality of a crisis) after it receives all of the Sinai, he replied: "Now, from the moment we established diplomatic relations, you are in exactly that same situation as any other country with whom we have relations. Do we sever our relations and recall our ambassador from France every time we are angry with it? Did the president bring your agriculture minister to Egypt and open the door for agricultural cooperation only to cut that cooperation in April 1982? Will the light lines between our countries be abolished upon the completion of the pullback?"

LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON REPORTEDLY HEIGHTENS

TA231814 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] The 54 trucks carrying cannons and ammunition that crossed from Syria into Lebanon last night were intended for the terrorist organizations. The equipment came from Libya. This is reported by our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal. He adds that Libya's involvement in Lebanon has recently heightened. Among other things, an antiaircraft SAM-9 battery is stationed in Lebanon and is operated by Libyans. The Libyan contingent in Lebanon currently includes several hundred soldiers.

Further Details

TA231954 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Israel is closely watching Libya's involvement in Lebanon and the massive aid it has been recently extending to the terrorist organizations. Our correspondent reports that Libya offered Lebanon to station a network of surface-to-air missiles in the south of the country to disrupt the flights of the Israeli Air Force planes over southern Lebanon. The Lebanese Government rejected the Libyan proposal. Our military correspondent in Dan Semama reports on the Libyan involvement in Lebanon.

Since the eruption of the missile crisis, the Libyans have heightened their involvement in Lebanon, apparently with the approval and support of the Russians [as heard]. Two days ago, 54 trucks of the Syrian Army transferred 18 long-range cannons, short-range cannons and crates of ammunition from Syria to Lebanon. These cannons are apparently part of the warfare means that Libya has been transferring to Lebanon through Syria with the aim of strengthening the terrorist organizations. At the beginning of April, Libya delivered SAM-9's and antiaircraft cannons to the terrorists in Lebanon. The missiles and cannons were deployed in the Damur area, south of Beirut. The missiles are operated by the terrorists but the operation is commanded by a Libyan contingent composed of several dozen soldiers.

In May, an additional Libyan contingent of several hundred soldiers arrived in Lebanon. This contengent was sent to Lebanon in the wake of a visit to Syria by the Libyan chief of staff and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's assistant for foreign affairs at the beginning of this month. In the same visit, it was decided that Libya would put its arms arsenals at the disposal of Syria and the terrorists. it was also decided that Libya would finance the expense of the Syrian force in Lebanon so that President al-Asad could withstand Saudi pressure.

Libya has recently also begun delivering heavy warfare means to the Lebanese leftist movement, including 135-mm cannons. As said, Israel is closely watching Libya's involvement in Lebanon.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI, 'ARAFAT MEET, ISSUE STATEMENT

LD242058 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 81

[Text] Tripoli, 24 May (JANA)--A statement was issued this evening in Sebha following the meeting between brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat, on President Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Sudan. The statement says:

At these historic moments, when our Arab nation and national fate are being exposed to the most severe imperialist and Zionist dangers and threats directed against Arab steadfastness; at a time when the Zionist enemy, with the direct backing and support of the United States, is escalating the war of annihilation against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and when the threat of aggression are continuing against sister Syria and against the positive pan-Arab role played by the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon; at a time when the imperialist and Zionist adventurous policy in the Arab region constitutes a threat to the security and national honor of the Arab region and also a threat to world peace and security, agent Anwar as-Sadat visited his comrade-agent Ja'far Numayri in an attempt to perform another act in the serial of treason against their two peoples and against the higher interest of the Arab nation. Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, studied the dangers of this visit and its consequences. The two leaders also studied the Arab situation and the latest developments of Palestinian, Arab and international events. They agreed on the following:

1. To consider Numayri's invitation to As-Sadat to visit Khartoum as a flagrant violation of the resolutions of the Baghdad and Tunis summits, and also an open defiance of the feelings of the people in both Sudan and Egypt and in all the countries of the Arab homeland, in a view of the negative consequences which this invitation and this visit constitute to the Palestinian cause in particular and the Arab cause in general.

2. Numayri's invitation to As-Sadat and As-Sadat's visit to Khartoum constitute a falsification by Numayri of the will of the struggling fraternal Sudanese people, since welcoming an agent like As-Sadat on Sudan's pure soil is tantamount to an endorsement by Numayri and his regime of the pan-Arab crimes which As-Sadat is exercising against the Palestinian people and their sacred cause and also against the Arab nation.

3. The gravity of this visit lies in the fact that it constitutes a deviation and a tacit recognition by Numayri of dealing with the arrogant Zionist enemy, which conflicts with the real interests of Sudan and also the higher interests of all the Arabs.

4. Numayri's reception of As-Sadat and his continuing to deal with him requires implementation of the resolutions of the Baghdad summit and imposition of the sanctions which were imposed on As-Sadat's regime, including the suspension of Sudan's membership in the Arab league, severing diplomatic and political relations with Sudan and applying the rules of the Arab boycott to Sudan.

5. Numayri's reception of As-Sadat, who has betrayed Islamic [word indistinct] and sanctities--primarily holy Jerusalem--is a provocative action against the feelings of all Arabs and Muslims. Therefore, it is our Islamic duty to apply that which was agreed upon at the Islamic congress against As-Sadat to Numayri's regime.

6. The Great 1 September Revolution and the Palestinian revolution stress their determination to firmly and practically oppose this new effort to execute the Camp David plot and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty. They declare their full support and solidarity with the fraternal Sudanese people and their armed patriotic forces which cannot remain silent about this criminal visit; they are convinced of their ability to inflict the appropriate punishment on those committing this crime.

In the light of the dangers the Palestinian revolution and the Arab region are experiencing, the two sides stress the following:

1. To call on all Arab states to extend facilities to the Palestinians who are working in these countries and to whom the resolution of the Palestinian National Council regarding general mobilization applies, to give them the necessary facilities to join the forces of the Palestinian revolution and also to ensure their rights in coordination between these states and the PLO.

2. To open all the Arab fronts for the fighters of the Palestinian revolution and to extend all facilities for the consolidation of the armed struggle inside the occupied Palestinian territory, and also to permit Arabs to volunteer to join the Palestinian revolution and its armed forces.

3. The United States of America must take full responsibility for the aggressive Israeli practices against the Palestinian revolution, against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and against sister Syria, in which the most modern U.S. weapons are being used, including those which are banned internationally, against the Palestinian and Lebanese people and with the open support of the U.S. administration. In this respect, the Arab states must form a firm, practical and insistent stand against the United States and its interests in the Arab region, and to treat the United States on the basis that it is a partner of the Zionist enemy in its attacks on the Palestinian and Lebanese people and the Arab nation.

4. Absolute support for sister Syria in its steadfast stand against the Israeli threats and attacks, which are being carried out with the support and encouragement of the United States, and in implementation of its policy in the Arab region. To underline the full support for the Arab Deterrent Forces and their positive pan-Arab role in Lebanon in the interest of Lebanon, its unity, sovereignty and independence and also in the interest of protecting the Palestinian revolution.

5. To call on the Arab states to adopt a practical stand--materially, politically and militarily--on the side of the Palestinian revolution and Syria in their opposition to the threats and the war of annhilation which the Israeli enemy is practising against them; to invoke the joint defense treaty in order to support them and to participate with them in the defense of the honor and dignity of the Arab nation, and to send their armed forces to the battlefields.

6. The adventurous American-Zionist policy in the Arab region is a practical realization of the Camp David policy and accords and of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty which the Arab nation has rejected. It has expressed full determination to oppose their results and effects until they are foiled.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES U.S. DEFENSE DELEGATION

LD260850 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 May 81

[Text] This evening His Majesty King Hassan II received in audience at the Royal Court U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Francis West and the delegation accompanying him. Those present included Prime Minister and Justice Minister Maati Bouabid and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta.

SUDAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON AS-SADAT'S VISIT

JN232011 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 23 May 81

[Text] Khartoum, 23 May (SUNA)--The Ministry of Foreign Affairs today issued a statement on the occasion of Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat's visit to Sudan to participate in Sudan's celebrations of the 12th anniversary of the May revolution.

The statement describes President as-Sadat's visit as a benchmark [passage indistinct] Sudan and Egypt, that represent the Arab depth in Africa, are facing great responsibilities relevant to their joint security, the security and stability of the African region and all the efforts and conspiracies to transfer international conflicts to our African region.

The Foreign Ministry's statement also stressed the need to coordinate the efforts of both countries--a need dictated by their security and that of their region.

President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and Jihan as-Sadat, Egypt's first lady, are to come to Sudan as guests on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the glorious May revolution and will be welcomed with great hospitality.

President as-Sadat's historic visit to his second home, Sudan, constitutes a benchmark in the process of unique relations which link the north and the south of the Nile Valley. These relations have always been nourished by Egypt's feelings and those of the struggling Egyptian people, who have always maintained fraternal feelings and friendship for their brother Sudanese people, manifested in the fact that Egypt and the Egyptian people were the first to recognize Sudan's independence and the first to support this independence to enable Sudan to move peacefully into independence without difficulties to obstruct its march toward achieving its complete sovereignty.

The eternal relations that link the two fraternal people in Sudan and Egypt, relations strengthened by culture, religion, ethnic origin and civilization, constitute a special relationship between these two neighbor countries.

This ethnic and fateful interrelationship between Sudan and Egypt has dictated that they seek a formula that embodies these distinguished and eternal relations. This has resulted in the emergence of the experience of integration between the two countries, the foundations of which Presidents Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat laid down in the Alexandria declaration pertaining to the political work and economic integration in 1974. This integration experience has been based on scientific bases without the slogans and outbiddings of a federation or a merger. It has established the sound bases for the political and economic cooperation between the north and the south of the Nile Valley, and, thus, has surpassed all former Arab unity attempts and avoided their negative aspects.

Sudan and Egypt, who constitute the Arab depth in Africa, face great responsibilities toward their joint security, the security and stability of the African region and all the efforts and conspiracies to bring international conflicts to Africa. Therefore, the coordination of the two countries' efforts has become an inevitable necessity dictated by the security of the two countries and the region. The two countries' efforts to achieve security in the Arab region are based on the full conviction that the security of Sudan, Egypt and the African region is part of the security and stability of our Arab region.

President as-Sadat's visit to Sudan will further Sudan's and Egypt's attempts to mobilize efforts, potentials and cooperation in all fields in the service of the prosperity, security and stability of the two fraternal people.

The Foreign Ministry once again welcomes the son of Egypt and the Nile Valley. It is confident that this blessed visit will be a bright beacon on the road to freedom, democracy and progress that the Nile Valley people have chosen for themselves.